

Intro to Sociology

1.23.08

* Chapter 1

- sociology is the systematic study of human society
- examine how social world guides our actions
- sociological perspective - seeing general patterns in the behavior of a people
- sociology was born as a result of social changes
- those changes were industrial, city growth, and political

* Early Sociology

- Confucius, Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Shakespeare
- Auguste Comte - coined the term "sociology" in 1838
- he wanted to study it as a field
- he acknowledged rules that govern behavior

* Sociology Theory

- Theory - a statement of how and why specific parts are related

- socio. theory explains social behavior

- 3 theory approaches:

1. Structural Functionalism
2. Conflict Theory
3. Symbolic Interaction

- SF - sees society as separate parts that work together
- CT - sees society as separate parts that compete for power (Carl Marx)

- Marxist - social conflict is caused by economy
- non-Marxist - social conflict not from economy, (race, women's rights, etc.)

- SI - different from the others because it looks at micro level
- SI is individual behavior influenced by society

* Building based on science

- we base our knowledge on direct systematic observation of social behavior
- empirical evidence - info. we can verify through senses
- concept - a construct that represents some part of the world in a simplified form
- variable - a concept whose value can change
- measurement - the way to determine a value in a certain case
- descriptive statistics - used to state what is average of a sample
- reliability - how consistent a measurement is
- validity - how well a measurement measures exactly what it's intended to
- correlation - two or ^{more} indicators change together
- cause & effect - a change in one variable causes the other to change

* Research Methods in Sociology

* * Chapter 2 - Culture

- culture is a system of rules established by groups in order to ensure survival, involving attitudes, values, beliefs, & norms, shared by a group
- a shared way of life, social heritage
- shapes what we do

* Qualities of Culture

- it is always changing
- exists on multiple levels
- ensuring survival
- social consciousness
- varied adherence to
- communicated across generations

* Factors that Influence

- environment
- population density
- affluence
- technology
- climate

* Elements of Culture

- symbols - anything that carries a meaning within a culture
- symbols can also be actions
- language - a system of symbols that allow people to communicate
- it is key to cultural transmission
- values - defined standards that people use to decide what is good & bad

- beliefs - what people to be true
- norms - rules & expectations by which a society guides the behavior of its members
- mores & folkways are norms
- mores are widely observed (taboo); folkways are casual and routine
- artifacts - physical human creations that reflect cultural values
- subculture - cultures within cultures
- counterculture - cultural patterns that oppose mainstream culture

* Sociocultural Revolution

- the changes in cultural are brought by technology (Ogburn & Lasker)
- the more complex a society's technology, the easier a member can shape world for himself
- 4 levels of development
 1. hunting and gathering
 2. horticulture & pastoralism
 3. agriculture
 4. industry

* Cultural Relations

- multiculturalism - recognizing cultural diversity and promoting respect for all
- cultural relativism - principle that what one says and does should only be judged by that culture
- ethnocentrism - judging another culture by the standards of one's own culture

* Global culture

- contributors are global economy, communication, & migration

* Culture from a Structural Functionalist Approach

- asks how it works to maintain society; it meets human needs by giving meaning & a binding tool
- benefit of approach - tool to understand unfamiliar
- drawback to approach - downplays cultural diversity

* Culture from a Conflict Approach

- focus on link between culture & inequality
- cultural traits benefit some members of society but at expense of others
- benefit - stresses change
- drawback - downplays binding

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socialization

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* Socialization

- it is the lifelong social experience by which people develop their human potential & learn culture
- personality - fairly consistent patterns of acting, thinking, & feeling

* Studying socialization through observation

- Anna & Genie - Anna was born out of wedlock, mother was mental, grandfatherly didn't want her, so she lived in her mother's attic for 5 years
- Genie was a similar case
- Anna couldn't speak & couldn't walk, no human skills
- Harlow's monkey research - monkeys is isolation had lost ability to function

* Nature vs. Nurture

- nature - behavior is instinctual
- nurture - behavior is learned (John Watson 1878-1958)
- balance of the two

* Contributors

- Sigmund Freud - (1856-1939)
- he said humans are born with life instinct (loving) & death instinct (aggression, competition)
- personality - occurs when instincts combine with influence of society
- 3 parts that develop through childhood, id, ego, & superego

- id - basic instincts (me) self-centered
- it lasts until about 2 years old
- ego - conscious effort to balance id with demands of society (can't have everything)
- superego - norms that society wants
- id & superego are in conflict
- - Jean Piaget
 - studied human cognition - how people think & understand
 - 4 stages of development
 1. sensorimotor - (0-2 yrs)
 2. preoperational - (2-6 yrs) - language & symbols
 3. concrete operational - (7-11 yrs) - why?
 4. formal operational - (12+ yrs) - abstract thinking & critical thinking
- - Lawrence Kohlberg
 - development in terms of moral
 - 3 stages
 1. pre conventional (id)
 2. conventional (what pleases others)
 3. post conventional (abstract ethical principles)
- - George Herbert Mead
 - father of symbol interaction
 - theory of social behaviorism - explained how social experience developed one's personality
 - defined "self" - part of personality composed of self image

- Parts of his social behaviour theory
 1. self develops only through interaction
 2. social experience are from the exchange of symbols
 3. "taking the role of the other"
 4. by taking role of other person becomes self-aware
- * great setting for socialization

- family

- school

- peer groups

- mass media

- *



Chapter 4

Social Interaction

* Video Clip

- power of belief - can guide social behavior
- Pigmalion effect
- four factors of the smarter kids
 - climate - warmer for favorable students
 - input factor - teach more material to a "smarter" child
 - response opportunity - are called on more
 - feedback - kid is praised more for being smarter, or dumb kids are not made to clarify

* Social Interaction

- the process by which people act & react in relation to others

* Building Blocks of SI

- status - social position a person holds
 - can be ascribed & achieved
- status set - all statuses of a single person
- master status - most dominant status; important for social identity
- role - behavior expected of someone who holds a status
- you hold a status & perform a role
- role set - all roles attached to a status
- role conflict - roles might not agree who attached to two or more
- role strain - tension within a role
- role exit - leaving a role that is significant

* Social Construction of Reality

- process by which people shape reality through interaction
- Thomas theorem - situations defined as real are real in consequences
- Ethnomethodology - study of how people make sense of their surroundings

- Harold Garfinkel defined Ethnomethodology

* Dramaturgical Analysis

- Erving Goffman - studied social interaction in terms of a theatrical performance

- presentation of self - effort to create impression in minds of others

- performances

- idealization - constructing performance to idealize our intentions

- "losing face" - embarrassment

- tact - helping someone save face

Groups & Organizations

Chapter 5

* Social Groups

- - primary
 - small, personal, long term, strong emotional ties, members viewed as unique (personal oriented)
- - secondary
 - large, impersonal, short term, little knowledge of others, members viewed as means to end (goal oriented)

* Experiments of Group Conformity

- shows how groups influence behavior
- - Solomon Asch's line test experiment - showed students cards
 - card 1 - draw a line |
 - card 2 - three lines | | |
- he told all middle was correct choice, except 1
- that 1 convinced 33% of others wrong
- Milgram's learning experiment - electric chair experiment
- Irving Janis research - groupthink, took away knowledge, - tendency of members to do as a group results in a narrow view of situation

* Elements of Group Dynamics

- reference groups - social group that serves as a point of reference in making decisions
- in-group - group to which a member feels loyalty to
- out-groups - groups to which a member of a group sees other groups as competition

- the function of groups is to sharpen group boundaries
- in-groups make loyalty, but foster conflict
- * Group Sizes (Dinner)
- he studied small groups
- the dyad - small group of two members
- the triad - three people
- the dyad is more intense because only one other person is there
- the dyad is unstable - both have to "be there"
- the triad makes more relationships; it is more stable
- a third wheel can happen though
- as groups increase, the relationships between certain people decreases
- a network - a web of weak social ties
- Milgram did the six degrees of separation
- * Formal Organizations
- Large secondary group to achieve goals efficiently
- Amitai Etzioni - identified 3 types of formal organizations
- Utilitarian - pay people for their efforts, people in charge (jobs), to make a living
- Normative - pursue a goal that a person believes is morally worthwhile; volunteer groups
- Coercive - involuntary; result of punishment or treatment (jail, mental facility)

* Bureaucracy

- an organized model designed to perform tasks efficiently
- - fix elements
- specialization - people in model are to do given tasks
- hierarchy of office
- rules & regulations
- technical competence
- impersonality
- formal, written communication

* Problems with Bureaucracy

- alienation -
- inefficiency, ritualism - may not apply to the situation
- inertia - perpetuate itself, hard to destroy
- oligarchy - rule of many by a few

* The "McDonaldization" of Society

- George Ritzer
- - 3 principles
- efficiency
- uniformity
- control

Chapter 7

Deviance

* Deviance

- recognized violation of cultural norms
- crime - violation of society's formally enacted criminal laws
- may be forced or not

* Social Control

- norms guide social behavior
- social control - attempts by society to regulate people's thoughts & behaviors

* Biology & Deviance

- "bad" genes?
- Cesare Lombroso - physical traits in criminals; he said they did look like apes
- William Sheldon - body structure & criminality
- genetic research - V & W Wisconsin looked at defective genes & environment factors & found connections

* Deviance & Personality

- deviance viewed as unsuccessful socialization
- Walter Reckless & Simon Dinitz - good boys/bad boys study
- good boys had personality to control behavior; bad boys didn't

* Social Foundations of Deviance

- deviance is shaped by society
 1. varies to cultural norms
 2. people become deviant as they are labeled as such
 3. both norms & the way people define rule breaking involve social power

1. Functions of Deviance

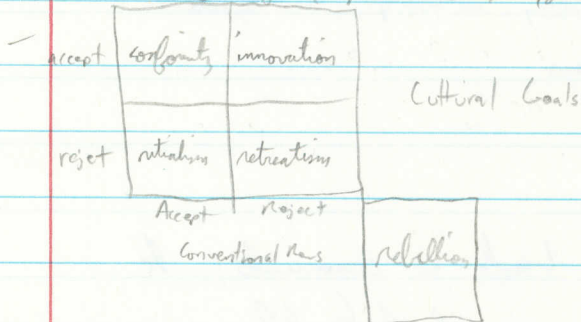
- Erich Durkheim

- 1. affirming values & norms
- 2. responding to deviance brings people together
- 3. encourages social change

* Strain Theory

- Robert Merton

- deviance from particular social arrangements



* Deviance & Inequality

- what is labelled deviant depends on who has the power
- social conflict perspective
- Spitzer - Marxist

Chapter 8

Social Stratification

* Social Stratification

- system by which people are ranked in a hierarchy
- it is universal, variable, & transferred
- transferred - what parents are is what you are & stay, social mobility
- an unequal system is fair

* Caste vs. Class

- caste - based on birth, little changed is allowed, India
- class - based on birth & individual achievements
- open to social mobility, all people are equal

* Meritocracy

- idea of stratification based on merit
- what one does determines where one ends up
- never existed in pure form

* Classless

- communism & socialism
- USSR - Russian Revolution 1917 - state controlled everything

* Ideology & SS

- ideology - why ideas exist
- Plato - all cultures consider some inequality fair
- Herbert Spencer - survival of the fittest, took theories from Darwin & applied to society

* Function

SF

- Davis-Moore Thesis - SS lends operations of society; the more better a job, the better the reward

- could be scarcity of the job
- promotes productivity
- Criticism - how is importance success?
- Oprah may not be as important as President
- Conflict Perspective
- Karl Marx
- stratification gives some advantages & others none
- capitalist - those who owned means of production
- proletariat - people who sold labor for wages
- proletariat would overthrow capitalist
- Criticism - why no revolutions?
- Max Weber
- with Conflict Perspective
- 3 dimensions of inequality
 1. status - rank born into yet
 2. class - based on money
 3. power - not based on birth or money, actions
- all 3 exist in industrial society
- Symbolic Interaction
- how one acts towards another person
- conspicuous consumption - the way one acts states a social position; goes beyond needs to make a statement

* Inequality in US

- income, wealth, & power
- median income - \$56,194 in 2005
- schooling - schools are not giving equal resources
- 85% complete high school, only 28% graduate college
- race & gender - males are more likely to have more money & have higher positions
- health - not equal for everyone

* Chapter 9

1. first & third world countries don't explain well enough and categories are general. The race model focuses on economic development
2. high - richest of world & high standard of living
middle - standard of living is average for world
low - low GDP, poverty
 - general traits of high - most live in or near cities, allow people to live comfortably, 79% of world's income, cities densely populated
 - low - 12% of humanity, limited tech, most cannot afford to send children to school
3. depends on region or country, poverty level may be different - 29% of income support 10% of humanity
4. relative - some lack resources that one might want
absolute - fall below ability to provide basic needs
5. children very hungry & tired, not go to school
women - forced to work days, high birth rate
6. 37% of world that are "slaves"
 - title - owning
 - child - male more
 - debt bondage - wages too low
 - marriage - certain forms that fall within

7. low income - animals - for farming
population growth - population 4x
culture - resist change
stratification -
gender - women cannot hold jobs
rule/power - systems of other
8. - explains economic differences, emerged with capitalism
- modernization theory - helping things change (asks why global conditions are)
9. - traditional - spiritual
- take off - starts to rise, increase trade, individuals
- tech maturity - moves forward with tech, at cost of traditions
- high mass consumption - production yields choice for consuming.
10. - population control -
- increased food production
- industrial tech - factories
- agriculture -
11. socialism attacks this, says poor countries
- rich nations hinder development of poor ones
- ignores global economy
- holds poor to rich standards

12. dependency theory - poor nations become dependent on rich nations

13. Wallstein - world economy - operation of any country operates on global economy

- world economy benefits rich nations

- poor countries only produce one crop and become dependent

- lack of industrial capacity

14. - more wealth vs. less wealth

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15. trickle down theory - wealth "trickles" down to poorer people

Gender Stratification

Chapter 10

* Gender It.

- def. unequal distribution of wealth, power, and privileges between men & women
- gender vs. sex
- sex - biological
- gender - social creation of male & female
- genders are defined differently per culture
- Margaret Mead - 1930s, studied genders
- her reasoning is that if gender is biological, all people should define sex the same way
- one cultural was nice to everyone
- second, were cannibals - masculine
- third, divided, male & female roles, but ideas were flipped
- culture is key to gender distinction
- George Murdock - 1937 - studied 200 pre industrial societies
- he found that there was global agreement on gender roles

* Sexism

- belief that one sex is superior to other
- institutional sexism - sexism is built into society
- matriarchy - female dominates
- patriarchy - male dominates

* * Gender Roles

- influences a person's behavior

* in the family - "it's a boy", "it's a girl"

- gender defines one from birth
- child dressed as a girl was nurtured, son child in blue was more aggressively treated
- boys given, was talked to

* in peer groups

- boys play with boys

* schools

- boys - math & science
- girls - reading & english

* media

- women is cleaning
- men are tough

* * Gender & Work

- gender & labor force - men expected to work
- the glass ceiling - refers to the constraints that keep women from being promoted
- women are supposed to stay home and take care
- gender & education - by 2005, 60% of bachelor's degrees were held by women

* Minority Status

- minority - a group of people that is set apart & subordinated
- minorities who are women - intersection theory is the interplay of race & sex into social status

* Gender Violence

- against women - less tolerated now
- against men - occurs from other men, 80% of violent crimes are from men
- sexual harassment - sexual actions that might inflict harm or discomfort upon another
- pornography - women are seen as objects; advertising can cross that line

* Feminism

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* Feminism

- the advocacy of social equality for women & men, in opposition to patriarchy & sexism
- basic ideas -
 - working to increase equality
 - expanding human choice
 - eliminating gender stratification
 - ending sexual violence
 - promoting sexual freedom

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Race & Ethnicity

Chapter 11

* Race

- definition - a socially constructed category of people who share biologically transmitted traits that members of a society consider important
- race is socially constructed
- physical traits
- significance of race -

* Ethnicity

- a shared cultural heritage based on common ancestors, language, and religion
- socially constructed
- part of social identity
- both race & ethnicity change over time

* Minority

- any category of people that society sets apart & subordinates
- based on race and/or ethnicity
- distinct identity & subordination are characteristics

* Prejudice

- a rigid and unfair generalization about an entire category of people
- usually supported by little or no evidence

* Stereotype

- an exaggerated description applied to every person of a category
- comedians talk about this

* Social Distance Scale

- way to measure prejudice based on how willing one is willing to interact with members of a given category

- Emory Bogardus

* * Theories of Prejudice

* Segregation Theory

- putting blame on the group to be hated
- people who are frustrated segregate

* Authoritarian Personality Theory

- prejudice is a personality trait
- people who are prejudiced want to be competitive
- concluded that people with little education or people who grew up angry & anxious are prone to this

* Culture Theory

- found in each person because prejudice is in every culture
- similar people have similar attitudes

* Conflict Theory

- macro level
- prejudice exists so that people can oppress others

* Discrimination

- unequal treatment of various categories of people
- action, the actual act of prejudice
- can be positive or negative

* * 4 Models

* Pluralism

- ethnicities are equal in society

* Assimilation

- minorities adopt patterns of dominant culture
- change in ethnicity, but not in race

* Segregation

- physical + social separation
- can be voluntary (African Americans separate themselves)

* Genocide

- systematic killing of one people by another

Race & Ethnicity (cont.)

Chapter 11

* Interaction - Natives / Europeans

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* Affirmative Action

- broad range of policies in work force & education to promote equal opportunity as well as diversity

- attempts to compensate for effects of past discriminations

-

Chapter 12

Economics & Politics

* Economy

- the social institution that organizes a society's production, distribution, and consumption of goods & services
- goods - things, commodities
- services - activities that people need or want

* History of Economy

- Agriculture Revolution - tools to farm & grow food, specialized work, permanent settlements, trade, ^{adv.} tech.
- Industrial Revolution - new source of energy, manufacturing, central work location, specialization, & wage labor
- Information Revolution - productive systems based on service work & high technology, more service jobs
- shifts from tangible products to ideas
- mechanical skills to literary skills
- shift from factory to anywhere

* Sectors of the Economy

- primary - part of econ that draws raw materials from environment
- secondary - raw materials are transformed to manufactured goods
- tertiary - services

* The Global Economy

- economic a

- 5 results - global division of labor, products just through more than one nation, national gov't no longer have control of trade within borders, wealth in the hands of a few, shifting of jobs - outsourcing

* Economic Systems

- determining who gets what
- models - capitalism & socialism

* Capitalism

- system is privately owned
- private ownership of property
- pursuit of personal profit
- competition & consumer choice

* Socialism

- system is collectively owned
- collective ownership of property
- pursuit of collective goals
- government owns the economy

* Defining justice

- in capitalism, freedom of the marketplace, pursuit of self interest
- in socialism - meeting all people's needs in a roughly equal manner

* Politics

- functions to put people on same page
- gov't - formal organization that directs the political life of a society

* Max Weber & Power

- power - ability to achieve desired ends despite resistance from others
- sources are traditional, rational-legal, charismatic
 - rational-legal - rational & enacted laws
 - charismatic - an extraordinary quality

* 4 Categories of Political Systems

- monarchy - rule by one person
- authoritarianism - denial of people's voices for gov't
- totalitarianism - highly centralized, rules regulate all aspects of life
- democracy - giving power to the people

* Power Beyond Rules

- revolution - when one system is overthrown to replace it
- terrorism - an act of violence used as a political strategy

* Politics in the US

- history
- US gov't is a welfare state

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Family

* Family

- a social institution in all societies that unites people in cooperative groups to care for one another, including children
- kinship - social bond based on common ancestry, marriage, or adoption
- families form around marriage

* Patterns

- endogamy - marriage between people of same category
- exogamy - marriage between people of different categories
- monogamy - one partner
- polygamy - two or more partners
- polygyny - one man with two or more women
- polyandry - one woman with two or more men
- polygamy encourages survival of society

* Living Patterns

- patrilocality - near or with father
- matrilocality - mother
- neolocality - apart from both parents
- neolocality occurred near Industrial Revolution

* Patterns of Descent

- descent - system by which members of society trace kinship over generations
- patrilineal descent - only father
- matrilineal descent - only mother
- bilateral descent - both sides

* Structural Functional View of Family

- socialization - it's a child's first social tie
- regulation of sexual activity - kinship organization, property rights
- social placement - parents pass on identity to a child
- material & emotional security - family is a safe haven, a system of financial security

* Alternative Forms

- one parent families - only one parent around
- family of affinity - people without blood ties or legally, but define themselves as such
- cohabitation - two unmarried people living together
- same sex couples -
- singlehood - 9 out of 10 marry at some point, usually seen as a temporary phase of life

* Future Trends

- divorce rate -
- diversity - cohabitation, one parent, & same sex couples
- men in child rearing
- economic changes - increase of women in workforce
- reproductive technologies - genetic testing, in vitro

Religion

Chapter 13

* Religion

- it is a symbolic institution
- involves beliefs & practices based on recognizing the sacred
- sacred - surpass limits of human knowledge, holy
- profane - ordinary, everyday elements of life
- ritual - formal ceremonial behaviors
- faith - belief based on conviction rather than scientific evidence
- sociologists study of religion & why it takes a certain form, how it changes, etc.
- religiosity - how important religion is to someone

* Emile Durkheim

- sociology of religion
- 3 functions of religion (structural functionalism)
- social cohesion - shared values & norms by adhering to a certain religion
- social control - promote conformity
- providing meaning & purpose - life has a purpose, there is greater meaning

* Types of Religious Organization

- church - well integrated into the larger society
- usually exists for centuries, leaders are formally trained & ordained
- accepts profane ways of world
- conceive God in intellectual terms
- use abstract moral standards - avoids social controversy

- a state church is formally allied with the state
- denomination - a church independent of the state that recognizes religious pluralism
- a sect stands apart from larger society
- personal experience of divine power
- charisma - extraordinary personal qualities
- to sustain membership, may actively recruit members
- attract more disadvantaged people who are social outsiders
- cult - outside of cultural tradition
- form around charismatic leaders who offer a compelling message of a new & different way of life
- have a negative social image

* Religion in History

- animism - natural world as conscious lifeforms & they affect humanity
- early societies - animism
- pastoral & horticultural societies - belief in a single divine power
- agrarians - centrality of religion
- Industrial Revolution - increase in science, decrease in importance of religion

* Religion in the US

- varies by region

Education

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* Education

- social institution through which society provides its members with important knowledge
- schooling - formal instruction under direction of specially trained teachers

* Schooling

- economic development - high standard of living & democratic principles
- culture -
- in the US - 25% of people have 4 year degree

* The Functions of Schooling

- socialization -
- cultural innovation - changing culture
- social integration - diverse people into one society
- social placement - matching instruction to ability
- latent functions - underlying indirect functions

* Education & Symbolic Interaction

- looks how perceptions can shape what happens in a classroom
- Jane Elliot's eye color
- gender dominance

* Schooling & Social Inequality

- challenges idea that school develops everyone's talent & abilities
- public vs. private education -
- different public schools
- inequality in higher education

* Problems in school

- discipline & violence
- High 5 ways school's undermine education
rigid uniformity, specialization of teachers
- drop outs
- academic standards

Environment & Society

Chapter 15

* Ecology

- study of interaction of living organisms & the natural environment
- the environment is of interest because of the society's impact on the environment

* Ecosystem

- composed of all interactions of living things & natural environment
- butterfly effect - one changes create bigger, unrelated changes

* Technology & Environment

- I - PAT

- I = environ. impact

- P = population

- A = level of affluence

- T = level of technology

- environmental deficit - long term harm to natural environment caused by humanity's focus on short term material influence

* The Logic of Growth

- core values underlying social life form the logic of growth
- progress - creating a better future
- Limits to Growth - foundation of environmental movement

* Solid Waste

- the disposable society

- 80% of solid waste ends up in land-fill

* Water & Air Pollution

- vitality of water -

- harm to water -

- air pollution -

* Rainforests

- importance - emit oxygen

- impact -

* Environmental Racism

- part of conflict theory

- hazards are greatest for minorities

* Ecologically Sustainable Culture

- a way of life that meets the needs of human & protects environment

- 3 strategies

- control human population growth

- conserve finite resources

- reduce waste

-

* Social Change

- sociology is used to document society & institutions
- invention, discovery, & diffusion
- conflict can cause social change
- inequality can cause social change
- Marx laid out framework of revolution
- ideas cause social change
- Weber said most changes are because of ideas
- demographic changes cause change - population boom, minorities
- population getting older - medical research & homes that are built
- migration from cold to warm

* Disasters

- unexpected, harms people & property
- floods, earthquakes, forest fires, & hurricanes
- tornadoes not included
- technological disasters - post industrial revolution
- Kai Erikson - writes about tech disasters
- nuclear, pollution, etc
- 3 conclusions he made about social consequences
 1. causes physical damage & loss of human community
 2. social damage more serious when a toxic substance is involved
 3. most serious when damage is actions of other people

* Post Modern

- I think in a post modern society

1. modernity has failed - refers to "the life free from want"

2. light of progress is fading

3. science no longer holds the answers

4. cultural debates are intensifying

5. social institutions are changing