



# Societal Structure

The formation of Intra-Cultural Identity

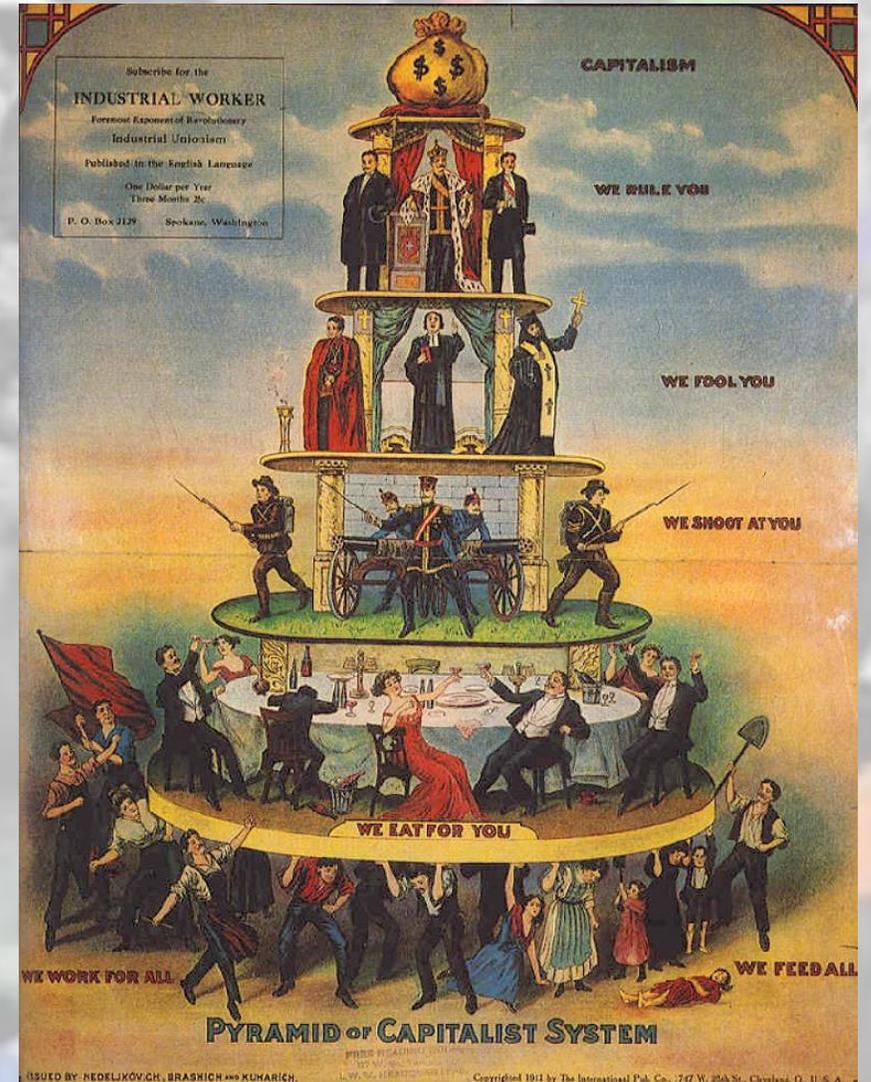
# Basic Principles of Societal Structure

- **Social Structure** - A network of interrelated statuses and roles that guide human behavior.
  - **Status** - A socially defined position
    - Ex. Middle Class, Upper Class, Lower Class
  - **Role** - The behavior associated with a status
    - Ex. A doctor is suppose to act in certain ways while the expectations for a lawyer are different



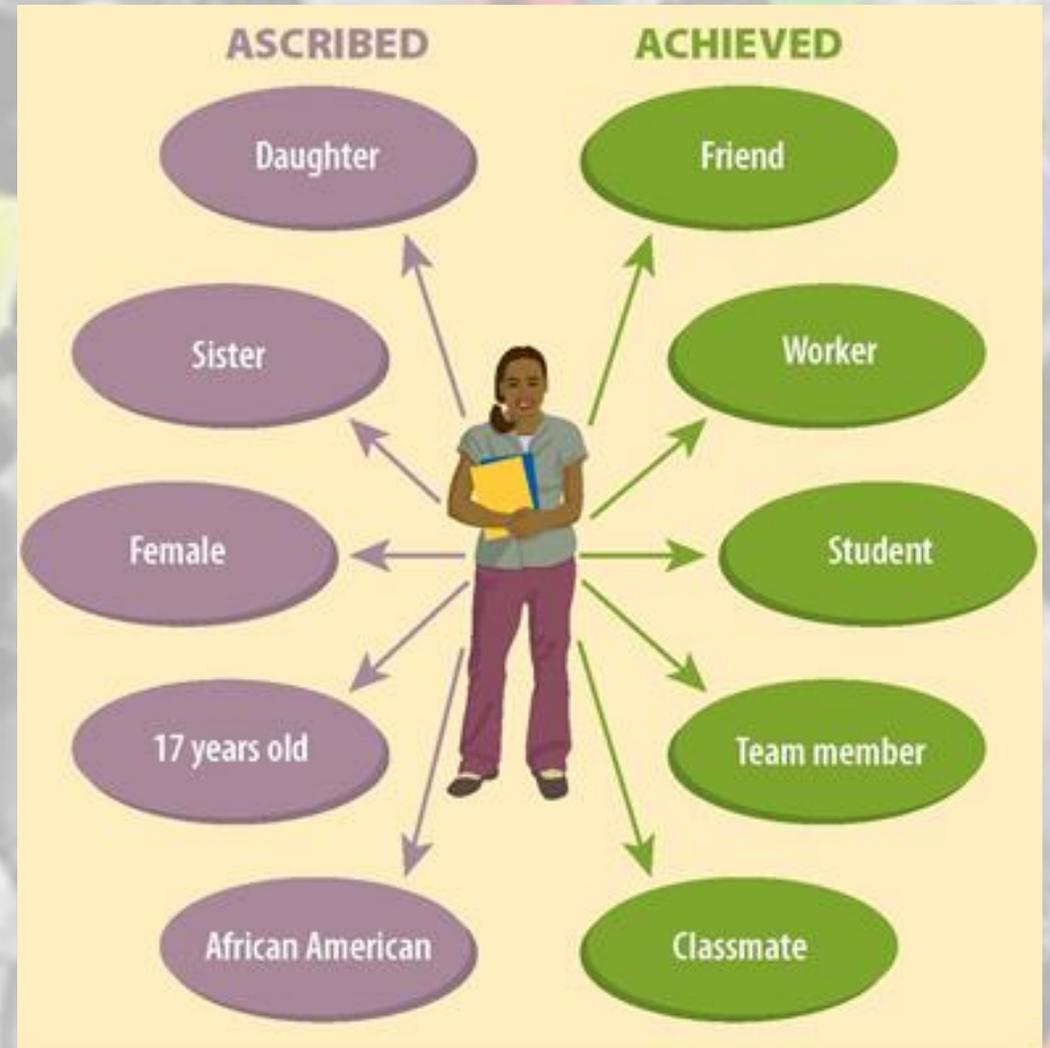
# Sociological Views of Stratification

- It is a characteristic of society, not simply a reflection of individual differences
  - Grouping based on perceived societal differences
- It persists over generations
  - Often you are born into social class
- It is universal but variable
  - Everyone is more or less involved in it but there are differences in how
- It involves not just inequality but beliefs
  - Sometimes stratification connects back to religion and deeper societal values



# Leveling of Statuses

- **Ascribed status** is assigned according to qualities beyond a person's control
  - Ex. Such as age
- **Achieved status** is acquired through a person's direct efforts
  - Ex. Doctor
- A **Master status** is the one that plays the greatest role in a person's life
  - It can be either ascribed or achieved



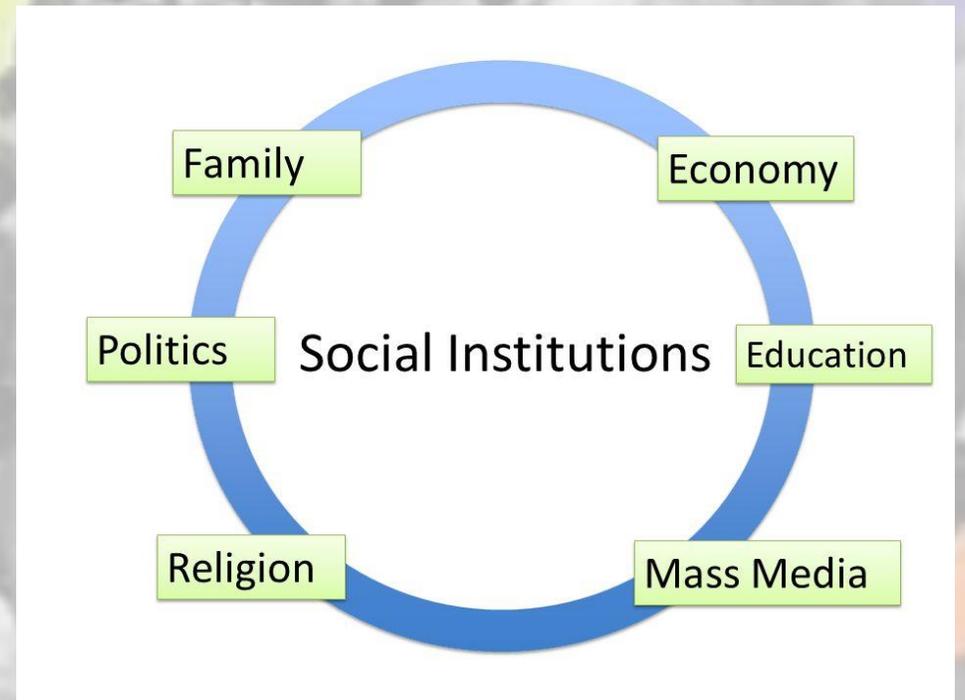
# Explaining Roles

- **Role Expectations** are the socially determined behaviors (or **Role Sets**) expected of a person with a particular status. These do not always hold true and the **Role Performance** is the actual behaviors the individual actually does.
  - **Role conflict** occurs when fulfilling the role expectations of one status interferes with a second status
  - **Role strain** occurs when a person has difficulty fulfilling the role of one status
  - **Role exit** is the process people go through to detach from a role that was previously central to their social identity



# Social Institutions

- **Social Institutions** are groups of statuses and roles that are organized to satisfy one or more of the basic needs of society
  - An individual will be a member of multiple social institutions which will all contribute to the individual's socialization
    - Ex. Religion contributes morality
  - Institutions provide framework for individual including knowledge, social control, and support



# Social Interaction

- Sociologists have determined that there are 5 main forms of interaction between members of a society
  - Exchange, Competition, Conflict, Cooperation, and Accommodation
    - Conflict and Competition encourage societal change, while Exchange, Cooperation, and Accommodation encourage societal unification and stability



# Stabilizing Integration

- **Exchange** occurs when people interact in an effort to receive a reward or a return for their actions.
  - Main motivation is people expect something in return
    - Ex. Doing a favor in exchange for a favor in the future
  - Exchange Theory says the only reason people do this is for self-interest
- **Cooperation** occurs when two or more people or groups work together to achieve a goal that will benefit more than one person
  - Ex. Two Individuals decide to work together on a project that is mutually beneficial
- **Accommodation** is a state of balance between cooperation and conflict
  - Sometimes requires compromise or negotiation where both sides need to give something up to achieve their goal

# De-Stabilizing Integration

- **Competition** occurs when two or more people or groups oppose each other to achieve a goal that only one can attain.
  - Common in Western societies
  - Sometimes considered basis of capitalism and democracy
  - Can lead to psychological stress, a lack of cooperation, and conflict
- **Conflict** is the deliberate attempt to control a person by force, to oppose someone, or to harm another person.
  - Has few rules of accepted conduct
  - Can reinforce group boundaries and loyalty