

Emory University
Department of Sociology
Spring Term, 2004
104 Tarbutton Hall; T 1-4

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SOCIOLOGY 523: SOCIAL CHANGE

Overview

This course studies social change from three vantage points. To convey the traditional interests of the discipline, we will selectively study the forms of change involved in the making of modern societies, such as secularization and state-formation. As we reflect on these large processes, we will examine generic problems in any account of social change, including how to explain unique events and how to trace the structural consequences of individual choice. We will analyze globalizing change to capture salient processes in the world today that are the focus of cutting-edge scholarship, asking whether the changes involved lead to a new form of global modernity.

For convenience, the seminar is divided into four main sections that cover distinct dimensions of social change. Within each section, we will first address a classic issue in the study of modernizing change, then focus on a contemporary research problem or puzzle, and conclude by examining an aspect of globalization. Each seminar session will broadly cover relevant issues and perspectives but also center on a particular illustrative study. Throughout the course, we will reflect on relevant theories, compare specific types of explanation, and suggest links to neighboring disciplines.

Readings

Richard Alba and Victor Nee, *Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration*

Elizabeth Heger Boyle, *Female Genital Cutting: Cultural Conflict in the Global Community*

Roger Finke and Rodney Stark, *The Churching of America, 1776-1990*

Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*

David Held et al., *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture*

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in Transnational Politics*

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power, Volume II*

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

Yasemin Soysal, *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Post-National Citizenship in Europe*

Additional photocopied readings (in graduate lounge) and electronic reserve readings

Requirements

- 1. Paper** (50% of final grade). 20-page paper on a relevant topic, due April 26.
- 2. Two essays** (40% of final grade). Comprehensive-exam style essays on course materials, one due mid-March, one at the end of the semester.
- 3. Presentations and participation** (10% of final grade). Two presentations on course materials, active contributions to discussion.

Schedule

- Jan. 20 Modernization, globalization, and the study of social change
G. Therborn, "Routes to/through Modernity"
P. Taylor, *Modernities: A Geohistorical Interpretation*, Chs. 1, 2
D. Held et al., *Global Transformations*, Introduction
J.A. Scholte, *Globalization: A Critical Introduction*, Ch. 2
F. Lechner, "Globalization"
- Jan. 27 Economic modernization: the great transformation and market society
K. Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
- Feb. 3 Economic change: the problem of explaining the "rise of the West"
J. Goldstone, "The Rise of the West – or Not?"
J. Goldstone, "Efflorescences and Economic Growth in World History"
D. Chirot, "The Rise of the West"
- Feb. 10 Economic globalization: integration and its consequences
D. Held et al., *Global Transformations*, Chs. 3, 4, 5
- Feb. 17 Political modernization: patterns of state-formation
M. Mann, *The Sources of Social Power*
- Feb. 24 Political change: the problem of explaining state breakdown/revolution
C. Kurzman, *The "Unthinkable" Revolution in Iran*
- March 2 Political globalization: the inter-state system and global governance
D. Held et al., *Global Transformations*, Ch. 1
M. Keck and K. Sikkink, *Activists Without Borders*

- March 16 Social modernization: patterns of nation-building
E. Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism*
L. Greenfeld, excerpt from *Nationalism*
- March 23 Social change: the problem of explaining social inclusion
R. Alba/V. Nee, *Remaking the American Mainstream*
- March 30 Social globalization: transforming citizenship and national identity
D. Held et al., Ch. 6
Y. Soysal, *Limits of Citizenship*
C. Jöppke, excerpt from *Immigration and the Nation-State*
- April 7 Cultural modernization: patterns of secularization
D. Martin, excerpts from *A General Theory of Secularization*
S. Bruce, excerpts from *God is Dead*
- April 14 Cultural change: the problem of explaining religious change
R. Finke and R. Stark, *The Churching of America*
- April 21 Cultural globalization: world culture and its consequences
D. Held et al., Ch. 7
F. Lechner and J. Boli, excerpts from *World Culture*
E.H. Boyle, *Female Genital Cutting*