



زانكۆی سه‌لاحه‌دین - هه‌ولیر
Salahaddin University-Erbil

حكومه‌تی هه‌ریمی كوردستان

زانكۆی سه‌لاحه‌دین

كۆلیژی ئەدهبیات

به‌شی كۆمه‌لناسی/دیپلۆم- كۆرسی یه‌كه‌م

Social Change–Diploma

The Theories of social change Evolution and Conflict theories

٢٠٢٣-٢٠٢٤

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Aims of this Lecture

- Analyse the basis of Evolution theory perspective of social change
- The key sociologists of Evolution theory
- Auguste Comte (1798–1857)
- Lewis Henry Morgan (1818– 1881),
- Herbert Spencer (1820– 1903)
- Analyse the basis of Conflict theory perspective of social change
- The key sociologists of conflict theory
- Karl Marx (1818–1883)
- Lewis Alfred Coser (1913–2003)
- Ralf Dahrendorf (1929–2009)
- References

The basis of Evolution theory perspective of social change

- According to the theory social change happens gradually in societies. The basis of evolution theory is the gradual progress and development of a society. e.g. social change occurred when societies moved from one stage to another.
- The theories of evolution Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, St. Simon, and Emile Durkheim rely on natural and universal laws, emphasizing social change according to its gradual development society

Evolution theory perspective of social change-

Auguste Comte

- Auguste Comte (1798–1857). Comte believed that societies went through three stages that he called them the law of **three stages**, like ‘the primitive theological state, transient metaphysical, and the final positive state’ (Comte, 2009: 157).
- **The primitive theological**: this stage went through three periods, First, the stage of **animism**; the stage of believing that all things in the universe are alive. Second, the stage of **polytheism**; that is, the stage of idolatry and the sanctification of things or animals and the creation of idols and worship them. Third, the stage of **monotheism**, the stage of belief in the existence of one God.
- **Transient metaphysical**: Man has wanted to have an interpretation of the universe and the environment in which he lives. E.g. understanding cosmic phenomena, the existence of day and night, floods and environmental disasters. This period ended when man developed special tools to obtain cosmic information.
- **positive state**: The positive or scientific phase begins the era of belief in science and through this civilizations have been created. E.g. Innovations have been made in the military, industry, agriculture, medicine, household appliances, transportation and clothing, etc. and continue to this day.
- For Comte the **main reason** behind those **change** was natural growth of population (Comte, 2009: 154).

Evolution theory perspective of social change- Lewis Henry Morgan

- Lewis Henry Morgan (1818– 1881), is an anthropologist who describes the stages of social change in his theory of development and divided into three stages Like savagery, barbarism and civilization stages
- **Savagery and barbarism stages:** those stages have passed through three different times: weak, medium and high. The level of human understanding and thinking was within the framework of protection against external attack. In these two periods, people's lives were simple and primitive, using the least tools. Over hundreds of thousands of years, man has been able to change these two stages and build cities and civilizations.
- **civilization stage:** Morgan believes that 'before reaching the stage of civilization, man must have the basic components of civilization' (Morgan, 1877: 79). He believed that the invention of writing was the stage of civilization, humanity has been able to escape from the stage of cruelty and barbarism and build civilization and coexistence in one place.
- From the Savagery and barbarism stages to civilization changes occurred in 'Life, government, language, family, religion, housing style and building architecture' (Morgan, 1877: 4).

Evolution theory perspective of social change- Herbert Spencer

- Herbert Spencer (1820– 1903) believes that social change has occurred gradually in societies. he believes, ‘Social development is caused by changes that occur in social structure’ (Spencer, 2009: 147).
- **Societies** went through three **stages**: militaristic savagery, semi-industrial barbarism and modern industrial.
- He believes that the **evolution** of societies similar to the **organic evolution**, and this is the law of all evolution (Spencer, 2009: 148).

The basis of Conflict theory

perspective of social change

- The basis of this theory is the interpretation and analysis of conflicts and crises in society. The main framework of this theory is to understand the conflict between groups or individuals in society.
- This theory emphasizes the existence of struggle for social change more than any other method. Therefore, this theory emphasizes that change is the result of group conflict.
- Those groups which are in conflict may be social, political, cultural, civic or commercial and economic groups. Social change occurs in one or more areas, depending on the strength of each of these groups. E.g. The political sphere in which changes have taken place will affect all other spheres, such as the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the fall of the monarchy in Iraq and Iran, and the establishment of the Kurdistan Region.
- the pioneer sociologists of this theory are Karl Marx, Ralf Dahrendorf and Lewis Alfred Coser

Conflict theory perspective of social change- Karl Marx

- **Karl Marx** (1818–1883) is one of the sociologists considered the inventor of the theory of conflict. Social change results from conflict between classes and groups.
- Marx divided the history of societies into **five stages**: primitive communism, slavery, feudalism, capitalism and communism. Each of these stages has been a struggle for economic interests between groups and has created social and political conflict, the main reason for these changes was the change in the **means of production**.
- He emphasized the economic position of each class and classified them according to their economic position which are the working class, the middle class and the capitalist. For Marx, the economy is one of the main causes of conflict between these classes in modern society
- Marx believed that the capitalists overthrew the feudal system and created the capitalist system and that the working class must revolutionize to transform capitalism into communism

Conflict theory perspective of social change- Lewis Alfred Coser

- **Lewis Alfred Coser** (1913–2003) believed that conflict as the main means of creating social change. He noted that conflict creates new traditions and institutions (Coser, 1957: 198).
- he says, noting that economic historians have emphasized that technological advances were the result of the struggle of the business community through promotion And the level of salary
- Coser believes that social conflict is a struggle to acquire the values, position, power and scarce resources of the country's wealth
- He believes that conflict is productive in two ways, first through changing and creating laws and second through new legal demands, which lead to the development of social institutions
- When a group is in conflict with other groups, it becomes stronger and more cohesive
- He considers political parties made up of different compositions, as the cause and creator of social change

Conflict theory perspective of social change-Ralf Dahrendorf

- **Ralf Dahrendorf** (1929–2009) The German sociologist attached great importance to the existence of conflict and believes that social change exists at all levels and in all societies
- He has proved that the greatest force for social change is social conflict and noted that ‘historical changes and developments have occurred because of conflict’ (Dahrendorf, 1959: 208).
- He believes that fundamental change is the change of people in positions of power.
- He believes that both societies and social institutions of a society stay together because of conflict and coercion, not because of agreement between them
- As a result, he emphasizes that conflict has two outcomes: first connecting plans together; The second is to plan and map the creation of change

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