CHAPTER 5: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIETY

Social Structure and Status

social structure - the underlying patterns of relationships in a group

status - a position a person occupies within a social structure (mother, son, student, doctor, musician, athlete)

ascribed status - a position that's neither earned nor chosen but assigned (gender, age)

achieved status - a position that's earned or chosen (occupations, decision to be a spouse or a parent)

status set - all of the statuses that a person occupies at any particular time

master status - a position that strongly influences most other aspects of a person's life
 - can be achieved or ascribed (occupation, age, gender, race, ethnicity)

Social Structure and Roles

role - an expected behavior associated with a particular status (status: doctor - roles: schedule appointments, diagnose illnesses, prescribe treatments)

right - a behavior that individuals can expect from others (patient has the right to expect the doctor to reach an appropriate diagnosis)

obligation - a behavior that individuals are expected to perform toward others (doctor must diagnose patient's illness)

role performance - the actual behavior of an individual in a role

social interaction - the process of influencing each other as people relate

role conflict - performance of a role in one status interferes with the performance of a role in another status (teenagers may have difficulty balancing study and work demands)

role strain - roles of single status are inconsistent or conflicting (high school student may wish to perform well academically, join a campus club, play a sport, socialize on weekends)

Pre-industrial Societies
society - people living within defined territorial borders and sharing a common culture
hunting/gathering society - survives by hunting animals and gathering edible plants
    - 2 million to 10,000 years ago
    - usually nomadic (follow the food supply)
    - have few material goods, small in size (<50)
    - cooperation and generosity are valued
    - no private property or ownership - everything is shared
    - division of labor - men, women, old and young are assigned different tasks
horticultural society - survives primarily through the growth of plants
    - 12,000 to 10,000 years ago
    - live in more permanent settlements that hunter/gatherers
    - led to growth of multi-community societies (1,000 to 2,000 people)
    - primary emphasis is on providing for household members
pastoral society - food is obtained primarily by raising and taking care of animals
    - 12,000 to 10,000 years ago
    - raise animals that provide milk and meat (cattle, camels, goats, sheep)
    - grain must be grown or obtained through trade to feed animals
    - more migration than in horticultural society
    - male-dominated - males provide food, women stay at home
    - more complex division of labor due to surplus of food supply (production of
      non-edible goods, emergence of religion and politics)
    - social inequality develops (class or caste system) due to the creation of a surplus

agricultural society - uses plows and draft animals in growing food
   - 6,000 to 280 years ago
   - plows reach nutrient-rich soil below root level -> more food per unit of land
   - greater productivity leads to more non-economic activities (formal education, entertainment)
   - government replaces the family group as society's guiding force
   - distinct social classes appear
   - wealth and power based on land ownership
   - economy based on trade emerges
   - monetary system develops (money, rather that goods, used for payment)
   - rulers believed to be divinely chosen (divine right of kings)

Industrial/Postindustrial Societies

industrial society - depends on science and technology to produce its basic goods and services

mechanization - process of replacing animal and human power with machine power

urbanization - shifting of the population from farms/villages to large cities

Gemeinschaft - German word for "community" - pre-industrial society based on tradition, kinship, and close family ties

Gesellschaft - German word for "society" - industrial society defined by weak family ties, competition and impersonal social relationships

social solidarity - degree to which a society is unified

mechanical solidarity - type of social unity achieved by people doing the same type of work and holding similar values (pre-industrial society)

organic solidarity - members' interdependence is based on specialized functions and statuses (industrial society)

postindustrial society - economic emphasis is on providing services and information
Five major features of a postindustrial society:
1. for the first time, majority of labor force are employed in services rather than in agriculture or manufacturing
   - banking, medical care, fast food, entertainment
   - in 2000, 75% of all employed U.S. workers were in service jobs
2. white-collar employment replaces much blue-collar work
   - white-collar = professional/clerical workers
   - blue-collar = manual laborers
3. technical knowledge is the key organizing feature in postindustrial society
4. technological change is planned and assessed
   - the effects (good and bad) of an innovation can be considered before it's introduced
5. reliance on computer modeling in all areas
   - with modern computers, many interacting variables can be considered simultaneously - easier to manage complex organizations (national, state and local govts.)