

In the Beginning....

What are we up to today?

- What were the conditions in which sociology was founded under?
- Who were the major players in Sociology's founding and what were their philosophies?
- Be able to explain social Darwinism.
- WHY DOES THIS ALL MATTER?

How it Got Started?

- Did not develop until the 1800'S.
- Major factors that lead to its development:
 - Industrial Revolution-
 - Rapid social and political changes; shift from agriculture based economy to an economy based on large-scale production.
 - Growth of urban populations => growth of social problems.

Urban Growth Problems

- Rapid urban growth= lots of social problems
 - # of people seeking work > # of available jobs
 - Housing shortages developed
 - Crime rates sharply increased
 - Pollution became a major problem
 - Difficult to adapt to the impersonal nature of living in a city versus in small towns.

New Focus

- Hard to ignore the effect of society on individual.
- New focus on individual liberty and individual rights.
- Groups of scholars began to believe that the social world was based on a set of basic principles that could be studied and analyzed.
- These scholars include:
 - Auguste Comte
 - Herbert Spencer
 - Émile Durkheim
 - Max Weber
 - Karl Marx

Auguste Comte

- French Philosopher; considered the founder of sociology as a distinct subject.
- Coined the term; first to apply the methods of the physical sciences to the study of social life.
- Focused on two major areas: social order and social change.
- Argued that social statics hold society together and social dynamics is society changing through definite processes.

Herbert Spencer

- English, started as a civil engineer for a railway company.
- Inherited a large sum of money, so did not have to work any more... Began to pursue his interest in society.
- Influenced by the view of Charles Darwin
 - Applied that to society- society is a set of interdependent parts that work together to maintain the system over time.
- Change and unrest in society are natural; only the fittest societies survive=> Social Darwinism. Boom.

Karl Marx

- Born in Germany; kicked out of lots of countries so settled in London.
- Believed that the structure of society is based on how the economy is organized.
- Society is divided into 2 categories:
bourgeoisie (capitalists- own the means of production) and the *proletariat* (workers-own nothing)
- Imbalance of power eventually leads to conflict

Émile Durkheim

- French, developed the first sociology course at the University of Bordeaux in France.
- Saw society like Spencer, but
 - Each part had a function- consequence that that element of society produces for the maintenance of its social system.
- Interested in the function of religion in maintaining social order.
- Believed that sociologists should only study the aspects of society that are directly observable.

Max Weber

- Professor of Economics in Germany
- Verstehen (*fer-shtay-en*) -the attempt to understand the meaning individuals attach to their actions.
 - Putting yourself in another person's shoes- thought sociologists should study the meaning of actions of individuals.
 - Inspired by his interest in different groups within a society.
 - Ideal type- description comprised of the essential characteristics of a feature of society.

Founders Jigsaw

- YOUR TASK:
 - First read through the bio and answer the following questions on your own:
 1. Where did your founder come from? Birthplace? Schooling? Parents? Married? Children?
 2. What was their occupation before becoming interested in sociology?
 3. What were their major contributions to the field of sociology?
 4. Why are their contributions considered significant today?
 5. Any interesting facts of OMG moments?
 - Then you will meet with your founder mates and discuss your answers.
 - Then I will mix up your groups and you will teach your founder to each other.