

Slide 1.
Lecture 9
Family Level Societies
(Bands)

Slide 1.
Definitions
Achieved Status- Social status and prestige gained by personal abilities and skills rather than inheritance.
Egalitarian- Societies in which all members have equal access to resources contingent on age and sex.
Reciprocity- roughly equivalent exchanges of goods and services between individuals involving simple barter and/or gifts in face-to-face exchanges.

Slide 3.
Bands- Family Level Organization
Family Level- bilateral, flexible kinship
Small, mobile,
Egalitarian, non-territorial
hunting and gathering
Strong Sharing ethics – “We hunt to share”
Sexual division of labor
lack of formal government and economic institutions
Status is achieved rather than acquired,
as many leadership positions exists as warranted by circumstances and number of qualified people.
Violence- present but no institutional warfare

Slide 4. Men go for risky prey (big animals)

Slide 5. Women go for reliable prey (plants and small animals)

Slide 6. Men tend to share to gain mating opportunities and build prestige in the group.

Slide 7. Women tend to share to feed offspring, provision kin networks, and maintain cooperative relationships with other women.

Slide 8.
Reciprocity- Food Sharing/ Sexual Division of Labor
In most band societies, men and women procure different sets of prey.
Food procured by both sexes is shared- however, objectives seem to differ.
Women tend to share to feed offspring, provision kin networks, and maintain cooperative relationships with other women.
Men tend to share to gain mating opportunities, and build prestige and status in the group,

Slide 9.
Case 1
The Shoshone of the Great Basin
(also includes Paiute)

Slide 10.
Julian Steward Analyzes the Culture Ecology of Great Basin Shoshoneans

Slide 11.
Steward's Interpretation of Great Basin Shoshonean Lifeways
The Great Basin is a harsh and arid environment.
Resources are dispersed and few (i.e., pinyon) occur in sufficient abundance to allow more than a few months storage.
Shoshonean Culture is an adaptation to this environment:

Slide 12. Shoshonean culture as an adaptation

High mobility

-seasonality

-scheduling

Slide 13. Shoshonean culture as an adaptation

- Few permanent settlements

Slide 14. Shoshonean culture as an adaptation

- use of a wide variety of food resources
- importance of women as food providers

Slide 15. Shoshonean culture as an adaptation

- simple portable technology

Slide 16. Shoshonean culture as an adaptation

- reliance on food storage

Slide 17. Shoshonean culture as an adaptation

- small group size
- family level of sociopolitical organization

Slide 18. Exceptions

Larger groups can form in

- winter villages (stored food)
- antelope and rabbit drives (similarity to kites)

Individuals can gain temporary status as antelope shaman or rabbit bosses (similarity to Gheo Shih).

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Gheo-Shih

Large, open site interpreted as a seasonal camp

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Great Basin Shoshoneans were

Broad-spectrum foragers who intensively used small seeds.

practiced food storage, sowed and irrigated wild seeds.

Faced a challenging environment by seasonality and scheduling

used as the model for preagricultural hunter-gatherers in Mesoamerica.

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Case 2

!Kung

(aka Ju/'hoansi, San Bushmen)

Hunter-Gatherers of the Kalahari

Studied By Richard Lee

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Sahlins 1968

Notes on the Original Affluent Society

Ethnographic work among the !Kung Bushmen had shown that hunter-gatherers

Lived long lives

Ate well

Had Plenty of Spare time

Did not work as hard as farmers or urban dwellers

Proposed that hunting and gathering societies (bands) had economies characterized by limited needs and wants

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Low Population Densities

Low Birth Rates

Infanticide

Mobility constraints

Lactational amenorrhea- the suppression of lactation and menstruation during breast-feeding.

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Hxaro exchange

Dancing and curing ceremonies

Expansion of Herero pastoralists

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Lecture 10

Local Group Societies

(Tribes)

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Definitions of Tribes

A unit of sociopolitical organization consisting of a number of families, clans, or other groups who share a common ancestry and culture and among whom leadership is typically neither formalized nor permanent. a social group bound by common ancestry and ties of marriage and kinship; a common language and territory; and. A tribe may consist of several [villages](#), which may be crosscut by [clans](#), associations, and secret societies; each of these crosscutting institutions may, at different times and in different ways, perform economic, political, legal, and religious functions.

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Corporate Group: "A social group whose members act as a legal individual in terms of collective rights to property, a common group name, collective responsibility, and so on." The existence of the corporate group continues beyond the life of any individual.

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Lineage -a corporate descent group whose members can trace their genealogical links to a known common ancestor.

Patrilineal- descent traced exclusively through the male line

Matrilineal - descent traced exclusively through the female line

Patrilocal -residence after marriage is with or near the husband's patrilineal kinsmen.

Matrilocal - residence after marriage is with or near the wife's matrilineal kinsmen

Clan- A unilineal descent group (matrilineal or patrilineal), usually consisting of several lineages whose members trace descent from a real or mythical ancestor, but do not know the genealogical links that connect them.

Patrilineal

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exogamy - rules requiring selection of a marriage partner from outside a particular group.

Endogamy rules requiring selecting of a marriage partner from within a particular group

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Segmentary Systems: "In descent systems, defining descent categories with reference to more and more remote apical ancestors so that the descent categories form a tree-like structure (including successively wider ranges of descendants)." RK:151.

Segmentation: The process whereby segments of a lineage split apart and become established as separate "sub-lineages." This is usually associated with political processes and/or demographic growth (RF-123); NG-200).

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Sodality- Social group organized around specific interests, goals or beliefs, whose members are not necessarily kin.

Reciprocity- roughly equivalent exchanges of goods and services between individuals (barter, gifts)

Big Man- refers to the most influential person in a tribe; power is achieved; lacks coercive authority and his position is informal and unstable; big men compete with others in reciprocity and redistribution.

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Village

a clustered human settlement or [community](#). Villages are normally sedentary, with fixed dwellings; however, semi-sedentary villages can occur. Villages have been the usual form of community for societies that practice subsistence agriculture, but can be found in some hunting and gathering societies.

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Associated with the Development of Tribes are

Warfare

Long Distance Trade

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Tribes

Egalitarian,

larger groups that are less mobile than bands,

Kinship based on lineages

may practice either hunting and gathering or agriculture

politically autonomous communities (villages).

Status is achieved, however acquisition of prestige and wealth may be important (big men)

sodalities are important in integrating social system and

economy is reciprocal.

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Tragedy of the Commons

Economic example showing the problems of methodological collectivism, when individuals act in own self-interest.

Pastoralists share common grazing lands.

Group benefit achieved when herd size and grazing times limited to sustain grazing.

However, individuals will benefit when they cheat rules.

Slide 36. Wal Mart example

Tragedy of the Commons

Economic example showing the problems of methodological collectivism, when individuals act in own self-interest.

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The Yanomamo

Napoleon Chagnon

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Yanomamo Subsistence

Wild Foods

Gardens

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Yanomamo Violence

War

Murder

Fights

Abduction

Rape

Female Infanticide

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M. Harris and the Protein Deficiency Hypothesis

Slash and Burn Farming rich in carbohydrates but poor in protein

Game quickly depleted in vicinity of villages- strict limits on carrying capacity

Yanomamo prefer male offspring because of their as hunters and warriors

Warfare, Violence, and Infanticide check population growth- allow game to replenish in fallow fields- boundary areas

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The Problem is another Tragedy of the Commons

Why should Yanomamo kill daughters and fight wars to create niche for game?

Why not have female hunters and not fight wars?

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Chagnon's Explanation

Women (sexual jealousy, seduction, rape) cited as most common cause of violence

Also revenge, theft of food, etc.

Villages closely related by blood and marriage

Disputes fall-out along genetic lines

Men rarely kill genetic relatives

Successful warriors have highest reproductive success

Slide 43 Case 2.

Roy Rappaport

Worked with Tsembaga Maring (interior Papua New Guinea)

Slide 44- Swidden Slash& Burn agriculture

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Carrying Capacity

The number of individuals a habitat can support with a specified subsistence technology without deleterious effects to the environment.

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Costs and Benefits of pig herds

Small herds are beneficial

Clean up camp

Turn over gardens

Easily fed

Large herds create problems

Compete with people for food

Damage gardens

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Ritual cycle serves to regulate the

size of pig herds,
frequency of warfare,
availability of horticultural land,
length of fallow cycle,
military strength and alliances of a tribe.
Human mating

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Problem- how could ritual pig and warfare cycle ever evolve to regulate population?
How are competitive groups prevented from exploiting the system?
By participating in the ritual pig cycle, successful groups are performing an altruistic act!

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Lecture 11

Chiefdoms

Corporate Groups and Regional Polities

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Chiefdom

Society characterized by
ranked social organization,
ascribed social status, and
redistributive exchange systems.

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Ascribed leadership- Social status and prestige assigned by birthright, sex, or some other fixed criterion, regardless of ability or accomplishments.

Ranked Society- societies in which individuals are ranked relative to one another in terms of kinship and ascribed status. Fewer leadership positions exist than individuals capable of filling them.

Redistribution- Accumulation and re-dispersal of goods or services through a centralized individual, agency, or institution.

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Cui Bono?

(who benefits?)

Society?

Chiefs are efficient managers who serve a social need by redistributing resources.

Chiefs?

Chiefs are “Aggrandizers” who benefit their own interest by acquiring wealth, prestige, mates, etc.

Slide 53 Case 1

Kwakiutl

Hunting and gathering group on Vancouver

Seasonally abundant resource followed by shortages required storage sedentism, territoriality.

Organized in small chiefdoms of related patrilineages (Numayms).

Chiefs held potlatches in return for prestige

Chiefs highly competitive

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Characteristics of chiefdoms in Kwakiutl Society

Chiefs

Ascribed Status

Social Ranking

Aristocrats and specialists (members of chief's lineage)

Commoners

Slaves
Redistribution

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Kwakiutl Chiefs
Headed clans, houses, and villages
Controlled access to resources, ceremonies, citizenship
Collected and Redistributed property
Hosted Potlatches

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Potlatch
Large festive feast characteristic of Northwest Coast Native Americans (Kwakiutl). That included the display and dispersal of accumulated wealth to the assembled guests.
Guests were laden with food and gifts, whereby the host (big man) enhanced his own prestige.
Give away food, blankets, copper, canoes and other items.
Recipients obligated to return equal or greater value in future potlatch
Competition intensified after arrival of Europeans (fur trade)
Inflow of trade goods
Population decline due to disease

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Initial Interpretations of Kwakiutl Potlatch behavior
Well Studied by Boas and other Historical Particularists
Good Example of Environmental Possibilism
Rich Environment (“fantastic surplus economy”) permitted a high degree of cultural elaboration, but did not explain it
good example of non-Western economic behavior

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Ecosystemic Interpretation
Stuart Piddocke
Environment rich but variable from year-to-year, and place-to-place
Numayms in poorer territories occasionally faced food shortages- starvation and warfare
Gifts in potlatches could be exchanged for food.

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Potlatches are a ritual regulation in Kwakiutl Society
Potlatches redistributed food and gifts from wealthy to needy Numayms in any given years
Giving away surplus holds populations of wealthy Numayms in check
Needy Numayms avoided starvation, food insecurity

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How Did the Hunting and Gathering Economy of the Kwakiutl form a Chiefdom-level Society?

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Incredibly rich natural environment
Creates surplus goods
Defensible Spots – worth fighting over
But, productivity can fluctuate
Seasonally- requires food storage to survive

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Seasonally- requires food storage to survive winters
Requires large labor groups to store and care for food surplus
- slaves

-wealth is funneled to a few individuals
chiefs

Annually- requires social mechanisms to redistribute property over multiple villages

Warfare

Trade

Potlatches

Slide 63. Case 2

Trobriand Islanders

Studied By Bronislaw Malinowski

Argonauts of the Western Pacific 1922

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Kula Ring

A system of ceremonial, non-competitive exchange practiced in Melanesia to establish and reinforce alliances.

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Economy

Intensive Agriculture

Yams/ Taro

Fishing

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Social Organization

Divided into matrilineal clans of unequal rank through which access to garden lands are inherited

Residence normally avunculular

Before contact very warlike

Chiefs occupy hereditary offices and can only be disposed by war

One chief holds sway over dozens of villages with thousands of people

Chiefs polygamous

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- Lecture 12

- Archaic States

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- State

- A class society, often rigidly stratified into social levels. The ruling class can control the populace by coercion and force. The rulers have the power to levy and collect taxes, establish and enforce laws, and conscript people to work for the state.

- A form of government with an internally specialized and hierarchically organized decision –making apparatus. A state generally has three or more administrative levels.

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- Social Stratification

- A pattern of social integration whereby individuals are placed in a hierarchy of social levels (classes), marked by differences in wealth and status.

- Stratified Society- large society in which whole groups of people are ranked relative to one another, with high ranking individuals having greater access to authority, status, and wealth.

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- Market economies- economic systems based on craft specialization, trade, and monetary systems.

- Money- any article or substance used as a medium of exchange, measure of wealth, or means of payment

–Craft Specialization – assignment of specific tasks, skills, or jobs to certain individuals. Craft specialist receive subsistence in return for the goods they manufacture or the services they provide.

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•Monumental Architecture

•Monumental architecture –large buildings such as temples, palaces, tombs, dams, irrigation facilities readily identifiable in the archaeological record and assumed to have been built by the collective labor of large groups of people

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•Urban Center (City)-

•large agglomeration (>10,000) of people living in a well-defined place that contained designated structures and spaces for a broad range of social, economic, religious, and political functions.

–Temples, palaces, markets, industrial centers, barracks, courthouses, residences

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	Bands	Tribes	Chiefdom	State
Organization	Family	Lineage/ Corporate	Ranked Lineages	Regional Polity
Population	<100	100's to 1000's	1000's to 10000's	100,000's +
Settlements	Mobile	Semi-sedentary- Sedentary	Sedentary Multiple Communities	Many, specialized communities Cities
Subsistence	Hunter-Gatherers (Pastoralists)	Hunter-Gatherers Horticulturalists Pastoralists	Intensive Agriculturalist Horticulturalists Pastoralists (Hunter-Gatherers)	Intensive Agricultural Trade Industrial
Economy	Reciprocity	Reciprocity (some Redistribution)	Redistribution	Market/ Monetary
Status	Achieved	Achieved	Ascribed	Ascribed
Social Structure	Egalitarian	Egalitarian (incipient status/wealth differences)	Ranked	Clearly defined classes Socially stratified
Descent/ Kinship	Bilateral/ cognatic/ fluid	lineal	Lineal	Cognatic, Lineal

Political System	Non-Centralized, decision by consensus, Informal, temporary leaders	Non-Centralized, decision by consensus, Big Men!	Ruled by dominant lineage Chiefs	Centralized Authority with formal offices and multiple governing bodies Power Based on Law
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•COMPLEX SOCIETIES

- Societies organized beyond the level of the household, family, kinship group, or local community. These societies often exhibit
 - Differential access to power, prestige, and wealth
 - Inherited vs. achieved status
 - Degree of specialization in occupations
 - Degree to which political power is centralized in a government

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•Civilization

- Civilization- a complex society with a high level of achievement in the arts and sciences, and a distinctive tradition of writing, architecture, religion, and law. Civilizations typically exhibit:
 - a hierarchically stratified social organization,
 - a formal state government,
 - labor and craft specialization,
 - a surplus of food and/or labor that supports a political, military, and/or religious elite,
 - monumental construction, a
 - system of record keeping
 - Formalized warfare
 - Intensive Agriculture

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- Morgan's Evolutionary Sequence
(divides into three ethnical periods)

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- Who's Calling Who Civilized?
- We will use the terms:
 - Complex Society
- Chiefdom
 - City/Urban Center
 - State
- Archaic State

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Lecture 13.

Theories for the Origin of Civilization!!!

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- Childe's Characteristics of Civilizations
- Primary
- Large, dense populations (Urban Centers)

- Craft/labor specialization
- State-level Organization
- Class Stratification
- Concentration of Wealth
- Food Surplus
- Secondary
- Monumental Public Works
- Long-Distance Exchange
- Record Keeping (Writing)
- Arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy
- Highly developed, standardized artwork
- Hierarchical settlement pattern

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- Urban Revolution
- Term coined by V. Gordon Childe to describe the origin and consequences of towns and cities, and consequences for development of state societies, market economies, and writing systems.

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- Childe's Social Surplus Theory
- Agriculture created food surpluses and free time.
- Surpluses led to population growth and cities
- trade, craft specialization, technological advances, and wealth.
- this created intra-societal conflicts over resources and the need for social mechanisms to control.
- This causes the emergence of an elite class
- This led to urbanization and state government
- Prediction – urbanization should occur in the best agricultural lands

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- Childe's Social Surplus Theory
- Problem- is surplus and free time all that is needed?
- State citizen's work hard to create surplus for elite- why?

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- Karl Wittfogel's Hydraulic Theory
- Oriental Despotism* 1957, presented hydraulic theory of formation of civilization.
- Oriental Despotism- Government where autocratic power monopolized by centralized ruler and bureaucracy.
- Early civilizations of China, Egypt and India based on canal irrigation.
- Requires centralized control to plan, organize construction and maintenance, and resolve conflicts over use.

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- Hydraulic Civilizations
- Peru, Mexico, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and North China
- shared common elements
- Developed in arid environments
- Economic base irrigation and floodwater agriculture
- Produced food surpluses and population growth
- Competition of natural resources intensified
- Developed political leadership, warfare, empires
- City states, temple based religious systems

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- Irrigation Hypothesis

- Theory for the origin of the Archaic State proposed by Karl Wittfogel. It attributes the origin of the state to the administrative demands or irrigation.

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- Irrigation Hypothesis
- Problem- Archaeological Research has failed to show a convincing link between irrigation and state formation in many areas- Peru, China, India.

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- Warfare and Environmental Circumscription
- Proposed by Robert Carneiro
- Population Growth
- Environmental circumscription- geographic restrictions on the movement and expansion of human populations

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- Warfare and Environmental Circumscription Hypothesis

Proposed by Robert Carneiro. It attributes the origin of the state to the administrative burden of warfare conducted for conquest as a result of geographic limits on arable land in the face of a rising population.

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- Circumscription- the process or act of being enclosed either by environmental (i.e., mountains, oceans, deserts) or social (neighboring groups) boundaries.

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- Trade Hypothesis
- Developed by W. Rathje
- Agricultural societies tend to be sedentary
- Richest and most productive agricultural lands often lack other key resources (stone, salt, metals, etc..)
- Creates demand for trade

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- Multicausal Hypothesis

Proposed by Johnson and Earle. Three conditions are both necessary and sufficient for archaic states to form

- High population density that strains the food production system,
- A need for a system of integration (such as trade or irrigation)
- The possibility that the economy can be controlled sufficiently to finance regional institutions (such as state religion) and/or support a ruling class.

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- Factors All Theories Agree-On

–Primary

- Population Growth
- Agricultural Intensification

–Secondary

- Trade
- Warfare

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- Definition: Agricultural Intensification
- The process of raising the productivity of agriculture PER UNIT OF LAND at the cost of more work at lower efficiency PER UNIT OF TIME.
- Intensification occurs when plots are cultivated more frequently and with higher labor and technological investments.

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- Intensive Agriculture
- cultivation using draft animals, machinery, irrigation, terracing raised fields, fertilizers and/or other techniques that allow annual, sustained use of plots.

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- Forms of Intensive Agriculture
- A central point of Boserup's Intensification Hypothesis
- Improvements in the energetic efficiency and productivity of agriculture come from the developments of new technologies.
- These advances often occur when growing populations have reached a point of "diminishing returns" when they can no longer increase the yield of farming per unit of land by working harder.
- Necessity is truly the mother of invention!

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- A Fundamental Point of the Entire Course!
- Agriculture can support more people and spur technological change, but only at the cost of making most people work harder!

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- What came first- agriculture or population growth?

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- Adverse Consequences of Agriculture
- Environmental Degradation
- Disease
- Population Growth

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- The Demographic Consequences of Agriculture
- 1) The adoption and intensification of agriculture is usually accompanied by population growth.

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- Tragedy of the Commons
- Economic example showing the problems of methodological collectivism, when individuals act in own self-interest.
 - Pastoralists share common grazing lands.
 - Group benefit achieved when herd size and grazing times limited to sustain grazing.
 - However, individuals will benefit when they cheat rules.

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- Characteristics of Early Civilizations/ States
- Primary
- Large, dense populations (Urban Centers)
- Craft/labor specialization
- State-level Organization
- Class Stratification
- Concentration of Wealth
- Food Surplus- Agricultural Intensification
- Secondary
- Monumental Public Works
- Long-Distance Exchange
- Record Keeping (Writing)
- Arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy

- Highly developed, standardized artwork
 - Hierarchical settlement pattern
 - Organized Warfare
 - Long-Distance Trade
-
- Problems- Warfare not always evident in state formation