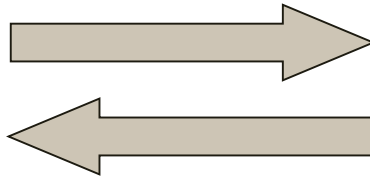


SOCIOLOGY THEORIES

**Different Ways of
Looking at
or Understanding
Society**



Society



Individual

society creates
individuals

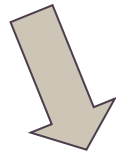


structure

studies how society affects individuals



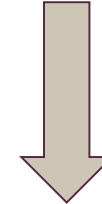
Structural Functionalism



Marxism



Feminism



individuals
create society

social action

studies individuals
within society



Symbolic Interactionism



THE THEORIES...

- the theories are different ways of looking at society
- each one giving us a different image of the same thing
- some stress some aspects while others examine others
- each view the relationship between the individual and society but from a different perspective



STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM

is often referred to as consensus theory because it doesn't address the issue of conflict in society, instead it looks at an ideal* picture of social order and harmony.



*not everyone's ideal

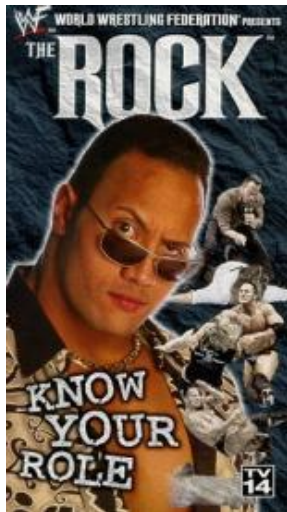


STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM

- ✓ all societies have certain basic needs.
- ✓ these needs or functional requirements need to be met if a society is to survive.
- ✓ concerned with the contribution the various parts of a society make towards those needs (family, religion, politics etc.)
- ✓ concerned with the basic need and desire for social order and stability in society.
- ✓ look at whole societies and not the individual; it explores ways that different parts that make up a society function to keep social order.
- ✓ know your role!



Know your role!



Know Your Role



MARXISM

is often referred to as the Conflict Theory.

while **Functionalism** emphasizes 'shared' values and harmony, the conflict view of society sees society as divided into groups or classes whose interests conflict with each other.



MARXISM

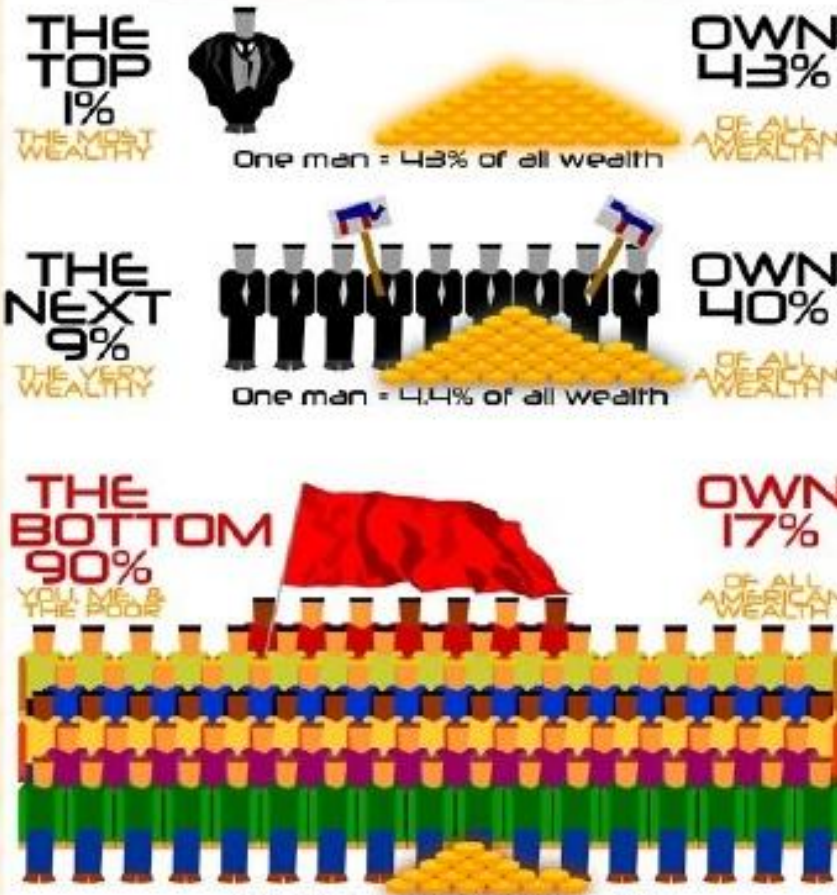
- ✓ history is a record of how individuals organize themselves to satisfy their material needs for food, shelter and clothing.
- ✓ focuses on how goods are produced basically who is doing the labour or being used and who is benefiting.
- ✓ also looks at how people are organized in connection to the goods ...who has stuff and who doesn't have stuff.
- ✓ questions the fairness of society and the social class system.



CAPITALISM

IN A SIMPLE GRAPHIC

This graphic is meant to explain the vast inequality between the rich and the poor. Imagine as if the total percentage of a nations wealth and population was directly represented by 100 people. So the top 1% equals one person in this graphic, and 1% of total national wealth equals one coin in this graphic. This graphic is for the United States of America. Source address located at the bottom of this graphic.



FEMINISM

Like **Marxism** it is a Conflict Theory.

Functionalism stresses shared values & harmony but it ignores inequalities that might exist in a society.

The conflict view of society sees society as divided into groups or classes whose interests conflict with each other.



For feminists gender inequality is looked at.



FEMINISM

- ✓ this view of society stresses a better understanding of the social roles of men and women.
- ✓ it strives to raise awareness about inequality and to work toward social and political change.
- ✓ has raised awareness about discrimination, spousal violence, date rape and stalking.
- ✓ has related interests to race, class, sexual orientation, ageism, those with challenges and essentially any other marginalized groups.



On the flip side...

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

while **Structural Functionalism**, **Marxism** and **Feminism** all look at society from a larger view point and how society influences the individual.

(macro)

Symbolic Interactionism looks at how the individual influences society It approaches society from a different view point.

(micro)



SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

- ✓ focuses on how individuals learn about their society or culture through personal experiences and how they interpret things or give them meaning.
- ✓ we are motivated by what we learn more than by other factors like class or gender or societal needs.
- ✓ we learn our roles in society as sons or daughters, wives and mothers or husbands & fathers through our own participation in society and how we come to understand or view things.

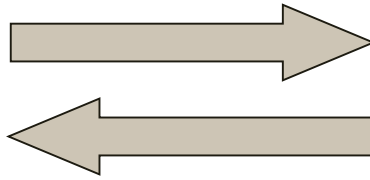


DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT SOCIETY

- these theories each have a different way of looking at society.
- each one gives us a different image of the same thing.
- some stress some aspects while others examine others.
- each view the relationship between the individual and society but from a different perspective.



Society



Individual

society creates
individuals

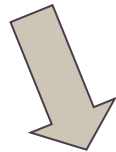


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