

**SOCI 101**

# INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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(DR. K)**

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## Global Stratification

### 1. Comparing Nations by Income:

"First-, second-, and third-world" are Cold War political terms; now we refer to income levels.

- a. **High income countries**
  - Richest **40 nations** with the most developed economies
- b. **Middle-income countries**
  - Middle **90 Nations** whose economic development is more or less typical for the world as a whole
- c. **Low-income countries**
  - **Poorest 60 nations** have the *lowest productivity* and most extensive poverty

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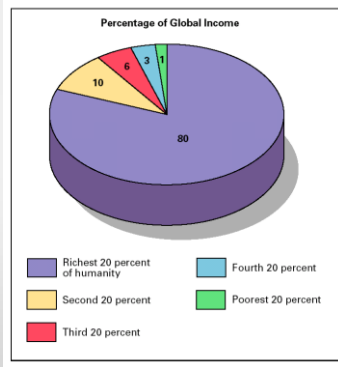
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## Distribution of World Income




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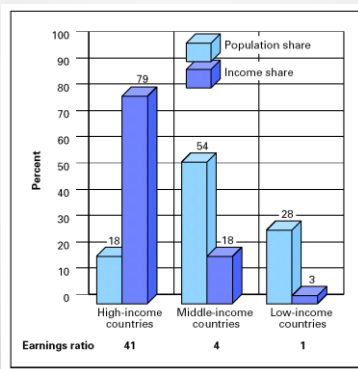
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## The Relative Share of Income and Population by Level of Economic Development




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## Global Stratification

### 2. Why is there global stratification?

#### Capitalism and Globalization

##### a. Global corporations have concentrated wealth

**Corporation:** An organization with a legal existence, including rights and liabilities, separate from those of its members

Global Capitalism has created economic concentration:

"Of the 100 largest economies in the world, 51 are corporations; only 49 are countries (based on a comparison of corporate sales and country GDPs)."  
- Institute of Policy Studies 2001

##### b. More importantly, corporations have become globally linked organizations, expanding their power across the globe to create a World System of Global Capitalism (cf. Wallerstein, Arrighi)

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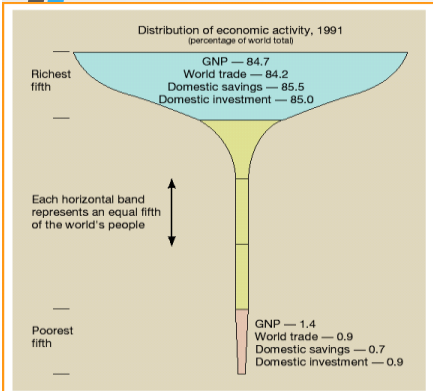
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# Global Stratification



1991

Global Distribution of Economic Activity

"Champagne Glass Model" of global inequality

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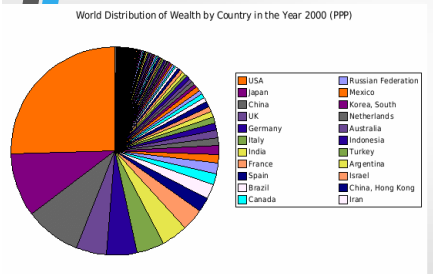
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# Global Stratification



2000

Global Distribution of Economic Activity

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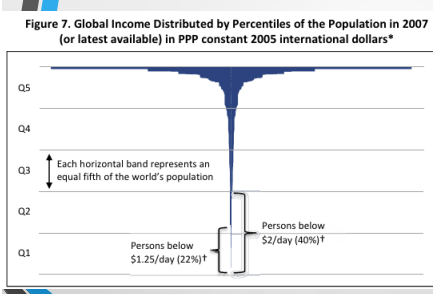
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# Global Stratification



2007

Global Distribution of Economic Activity

"Champagne Glass Model" of global inequality

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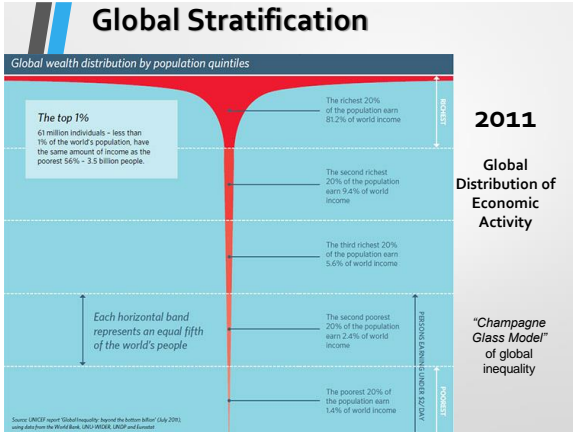
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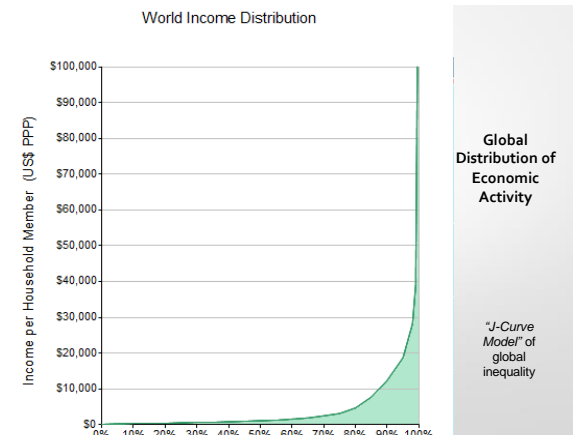
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## Global Stratification

### 3. The extent of global poverty

#### Absolute vs. Relative Poverty

- a. More than two billion people live on less than \$2 a day. Absolute poverty abounds
- b. 15 million people each year starve to death
  - The number of deaths due to hunger every five years surpasses the number of deaths from war, revolution, and murders during the past 150 years!
- c. Global poverty today is largely concentrated in a few places; there, it is a remnant of how the *entire world* once looked. There have been 200 years of change. ([Gapminder World](#)).

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## Global Stratification

### 4. How to "upgrade" poor nations?

#### a. Traditional Modernization Theory (Structural-Functional)

##### i. Technology is central

- Focus placed on the differing levels of technological development
- Cultural traditions are the greatest obstacle

##### ii. Why modernize?

Look at the impact of the industrial revolution

- Where industry has taken root, countries have become wealthier
- Low income countries have changed *little*



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## Global Stratification

### 4.a. How to "upgrade" poor nations?

#### iii. The role of rich nations in modernizing

##### 1. Assisting in population control

Exporting birth control and educating people on its importance

##### 2. Increasing food production

The "green revolution" involves the use of new hybrid seeds, modern irrigation methods, the use of chemicals and pesticides

##### 3. Introducing industrial technology

Machinery and information must be shared if shifts in low-income economies are to take place (e.g. *Gapminder*: [internet differences](#))

##### 4. Instituting programs of foreign aid

Money from rich countries can be used to purchase high-tech equipment and other equipment necessary for change to take place; must control fraud, waste, and abuses of power and status



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## Global Stratification

### 4.b. Dependency Theory 1970s → today (Conflict Theory)

#### i. There has been historic exploitation of poor countries by rich ones

- High-income societies **exploit** poor societies
  - They are rich *only* because others are poor

#### ii. Neocolonialism has replaced colonialism

- Colonialism consolidated the power and wealth of nations through *political and military control* of other countries.
- Neocolonialism = exploitation of *economies*
- Resources flow from "periphery" (poor) countries to "core" (rich) countries, but rarely flow *back*

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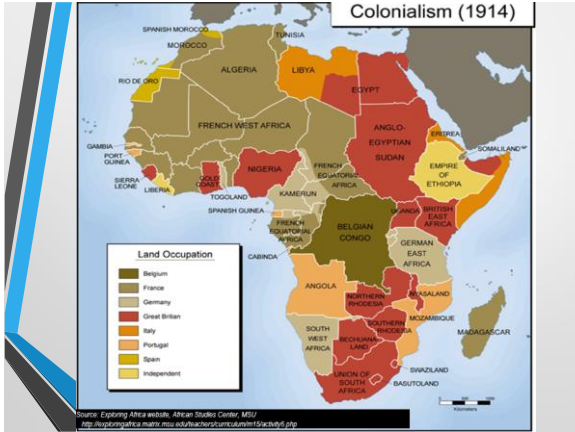
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