Chapter 3
The Historical Making of Family Diversity

Sociology 325
Chapter Three Overview

- Industrialization and Family Life
- Immigration and Family Life
- Racial Control and Family Life
Industrialization and the Family

Macrostructural Transformations
- Decade before the Civil War was a crucial transitional period
- Sharp distinctions arose between the middle-class and the industrial working class

In Middle-class families:
- Men engaged in productive work
- Women engaged in social reproductive work in the home
Work and Family in Industrial Society

- **The Doctrine of Two Spheres** - Men were to follow production out of the household, and women were to remain responsible for reproduction at home.

- **Women and Industrial Work** - 19th-century working class women engaged in both social production and social reproduction.
Work and Family in Industrial Society

- **The Family Wage** - an income sufficient to support his family at a decent standard, limited to White men

- **Childhood and Adolescence** - In the 19th century, there were multiple childhoods that differed by class, ethnicity, gender, and region
Immigration and Family Life

- Two Massive Waves of Immigration

  1.) Between 1830 and 1882, large numbers of English, Irish, German, and Scandinavian immigrants arrived.

  2.) Between 1882 and 1930 southern and eastern Europeans arrived. Immigrant labor was crucial to the industrialization of the U.S.
Industrial Work and Immigrant Families

- The family was a vital resource in adapting to the new society.
- By “chain migration,” immigrants encouraged other family members to migrate and helped them shift to industrial work.
- Families sometimes adapted to the new industrial setting by sending children out to work.
New Frameworks for Thinking About Minority Families

- Racial minority families who do not meet the ‘standard family’ ideal are viewed as deviant
- New research investigates how families are connected with larger social and economic forces.
Connections Among Race, Labor, and Family Life

- The presence of racially-defined groups in the U.S. is tied to the demand for labor
- Racial minorities were part of coercive labor systems such as slavery and contract labor which were organized to maximize economic productivity
- The subordinated labor status of people of color cut them off from institutional and social supports provided other families
African American Families In Slavery and Freedom

- Adaptation, resistance, and agency are key themes in recent research on African American families.

- Two parent households prevailed both during slavery and after emancipation.

- The main reason for family breakup during slavery was forced separation following sale.
African American Families In Slavery and Freedom

- The gender system under which slaves worked was imposed by Whites

- Men and women were laborers. Slave women were responsible for the domestic care of their owners’ children as well as their own families

- Gender relations were more egalitarian in slave families than in White families
Chicano Families in the Southwest

- At end of the Mexican War, Mexicans became foreigners in their own land.
- The displacement of the indigenous people, new laws, and new labor systems disrupted family life.
- Rapid economic growth set up a pattern of recruitment of new Chicano workers from Mexico by U.S. economic interests.
Family Life amidst Coercive Labor Systems

- Mexican families were forced to be flexible and adaptive
- Extended family networks were crucial in dealing with migration
- The compadrazgo system of godparents is an example of an adaptation to a largely inhospitable environment