Chapter 9

Global Stratification
Measures of well-being reveal consequences of a global system of inequality:
- life expectancy
- infant mortality
- access to health services
Human Development Index

- A compilation of data indicating various levels of national well-being.
- Simple measures of well-being, including life expectancy, infant mortality, and access to health services, reveal the consequences of a global system of inequality.
Per Capita Gross National Income

- Measures the total output of goods and services produced by residents of a country each year plus the income from nonresident sources, divided by the size of the population.
Global Stratification and Consumption

- Global stratification often means that consumption in more affluent nations is dependent on cheap labor in less affluent nations.
Global Economy

- Many common products marketed in the United States are produced in a global economy.
Rich and Poor: A World View

Ten richest nations:
- Luxembourg
- Norway
- Switzerland
- Luxembourg
- Denmark
- Iceland
- United States
- Liechtenstein
- Sweden
- Ireland

Ten poorest nations:
- Yemen
- Madagascar
- Congo Republic
- Niger
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Congo Democratic Republic
- Guinea-Bissau
- Malawi
- Burundi

* Data not available; ranking approximate
Global Stratification

- Large numbers of people live in poverty such as in this refugee camp at Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan, one of the poorest nations in the world.
The countries of the world can be divided into three levels:
- Core countries
- Semi-peripheral countries
- Peripheral countries
Modernization Theory

- To develop, countries must embrace new technologies and market driven values.
- Poverty results from adherence to traditional values and customs that prevent competition in a modern global economy.
Dependency Theory

- Exploits the least powerful nations to the benefit of wealthier nations.
- Poverty of low-income countries is a direct result of their political and economic dependence on the wealthy countries.
World Systems Theory

- Economic development is explained by understanding each country’s place and role in the world economic system.
- Poverty is the result of core nations extracting labor and natural resources from peripheral nations.
## Modernization Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Development</th>
<th>Arises from giving up traditional values and embracing market-driven values.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Results from adherence to traditional values that prevent societies from competing in a modern global economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Change</td>
<td>Involves increasing complexity, differentiation, and efficiency</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Dependency Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Development</th>
<th>Exploits least powerful nations to the benefit of wealthier nations that control the political and economic systems of the exploited countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Results from dependence of low-income countries on wealthy nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Change</td>
<td>Result of neocolonialism and expansion of international capitalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Systems Theory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Development</strong></td>
<td>Resulted in a single economic system stemming from the development of a world market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poverty</strong></td>
<td>The result of core nations extracting labor and natural resources from peripheral nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Change</strong></td>
<td>Leads to an international division of labor that puts profit in the hands of a few while exploiting those in the poorest and least powerful nations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigration

- Public debates over immigration policy have mobilized many who point out that immigration has long been a part of our national heritage.
Consequences of Global Stratification: Population

- The poorest countries comprise three billion people—over half the world’s population.
  - In the poorest countries women have almost five children.
- In contrast, the richest countries have a total population of approximately one billion people—only 15% of the world’s population.
  - In the richest countries, women have about two children over their lifetime.
## Quality of Life: A Comparative Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Access to safe water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>77.9</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Increased awareness of the impact of globalization has generated a protest movement with an unusual alliance between those concerned about the loss of jobs and those concerned with the impact of globalization on the environment.
Consequences of Global Stratification: Health

High income countries have:
- Lower childhood death rates.
- Higher life expectancies.
- Fewer children born underweight.
- Clean water and adequate sanitation.
Who Uses the World’s Energy?

- United States: 23%
- China: 11%
- Other high-income countries: 29%
- Japan: 5%
- Russian Federation: 6%
- India: 5%
- Rest of the world: 21%
Consequences of Global Stratification: Gender

- Around the world, women feel poverty more than men do.
- Women in wealthier countries have better health and education than women in poorer countries.
Risk Factors for Violence against Women: A Global Analysis

- Individual Level:
  - Frequent use of alcohol and drugs
  - Membership in marginalized communities
  - Low educational or economic status
  - History of abuse as a child
  - Witnessing marital violence in the home

- Community Level:
  - Women’s isolation and lack of social support
  - Community attitudes that tolerate and legitimate male violence
  - High levels of social and economic inequality, including poverty
Risk Factors for Violence against Women: A Global Analysis

- **Family/Relationships Level:**
  - Male control of wealth
  - Male control of decision making
  - History of marital violence
  - Significant disparities in economic, educational, or employment status
Risk Factors for Violence against Women: A Global Analysis

- Societal Level:
  - Gender roles that entrench male dominance
  - Tolerance of violence
  - Inadequate laws to prevent and punish violence
  - Limited awareness and sensitivity on the part of officials and social service providers

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The United Nations measures world poverty in two ways.

- Absolute poverty is the situation in which people live on less than $1 per day.
- Extreme poverty is the situation in which people live on less than $275 a year (less than 75 cents a day).
Human Poverty Index

- Meant to indicate the degree of deprivation in 4 basic dimensions of human life:
  - A long and healthy life
  - Knowledge
  - Economic well-being
  - Social inclusion
Human Poverty Index: Developing Countries

- In developing countries, the following indicators are used:
  - % of people not expected to live to age 40
  - adult literacy rate
  - proportion of people lacking access to health services and safe water
  - % of children under 5 who are moderately or severely underweight
Human Poverty Index: Industrialized Countries

- In industrialized countries, the following indicators are used:
  - proportion of people not expected to live to age 60
  - the adult functional illiteracy rate
  - the incidence of income poverty
  - long-term unemployment rates
Viewing Society in Global Perspective

Population below $1 dollar a day, 1984–2002

- 50.0% or more
- 20.0–49.9%
- 10.0–19.9%
- 5.0–9.9%
- Less than 5.0%
- No data
Who Are the World’s Poor?

- Using the United Nations’ definition of absolute poverty, one billion people, about 1/5 of the world’s population, live in poverty.
- Another 1.5 billion live on $1–$2 per day, resulting in more than 40% percent of the world’s population forming what the United Nations calls a *global underclass*. 
Human Poverty Index for Selected Countries
Debunking Society’s Myths

- **Myth:**
  - There are too many people in the world, and there is simply not enough food to go around.

- **Sociological perspective:**
  - If systems of distributing the world’s food were more just, hunger could be reduced.