

**SOCI 101**  
**INTRODUCTION TO**  
**SOCIOLOGY**

**PROFESSOR**  
**KURT REYMERS, PH.D.**  
**(DR. K)**

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Global Stratification**

**1. Comparing Nations by Income:**  
"First-, second-, and third-world" are 20<sup>th</sup> century Cold War political terms; now we refer to income levels.

There are **193 nation-states** of the world (as of 2024):

**High income countries: 40 nations**  
with the most developed economies;

**Middle-income countries: 90 Nations**  
whose economic development is typical for the world as a whole;

**Low-income countries: 60 nations**  
have the lowest productivity and most extensive poverty.

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Global Stratification**

Blue = High-income countries  
Red = Middle-income countries  
Green = Low-income countries



3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



4

---

---

---

---

---

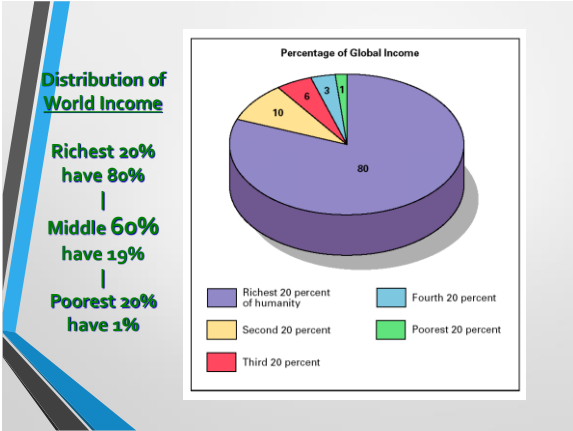
---

---

---

---

---



5

---

---

---

---

---

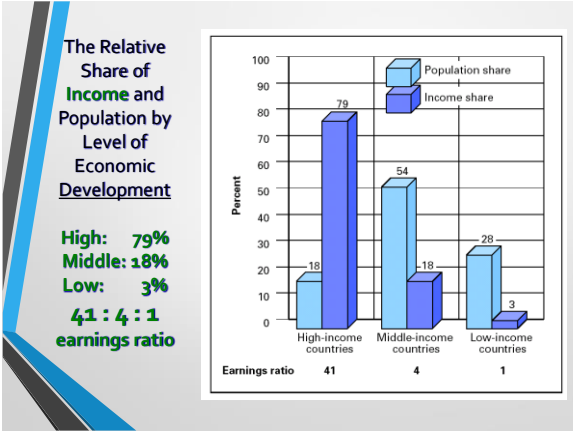
---

---

---

---

---



6

---

---

---

---

---

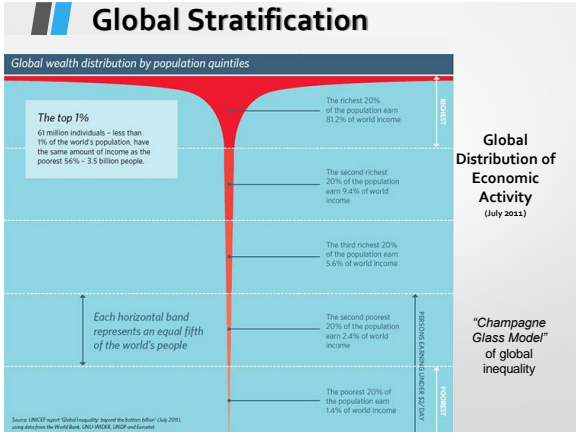
---

---

---

---

---



7

---

---

---

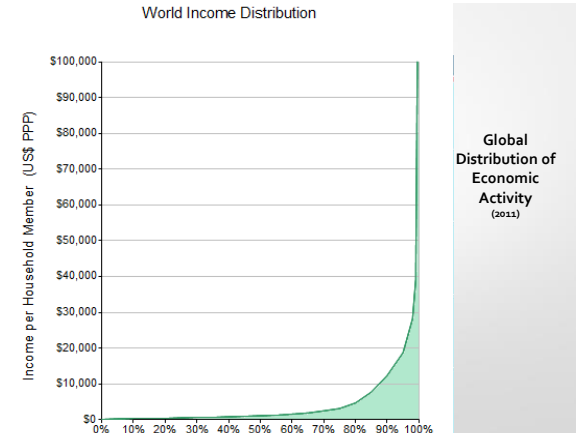
---

---

---

---

---



8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Global Stratification**

**2. Why is there global stratification?**

Historians point to **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  
  
"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 2002
- 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)

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Global Stratification

## 2. The extent of global poverty

### c. Absolute vs. Relative Poverty

- i. More than two billion people live on less than \$2 a day. Absolute poverty abounds
- ii. 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!
- iii. 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).
- iv. Yet, the 26 richest people (2019) have more wealth than the bottom half of all humanity (4 billion people)!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

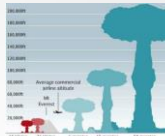
10

# Global Stratification

## 3. The International Power of Nuclear Weapons (aka "weapons of mass destruction", or WMD's):

- a. Russia's total nuclear inventory is 5,889 warheads, while the U.S. has 5,244 warheads (includes stockpiled and retired weapons), according to statistics published by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).  

The next-closest nation is China with 410, followed by France (290), the United Kingdom (225), Pakistan (170), India (164), Israel (90) and North Korea (30).
- b. About one year after its invasion of Ukraine (2014), Russian President Vladimir Putin announced his nation's suspension of the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) nuclear arms control treaty that aims to reduce Russian and U.S. strategic nuclear forces. Other discussions to continue the treaty past its 2026 expiration date were also suspended.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

11

### NUCLEAR ARSENALS

Estimated number of nuclear weapons per country

● Signatories to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) ● Non-signatories to the NPT ● Withdrew



---

---

---

---

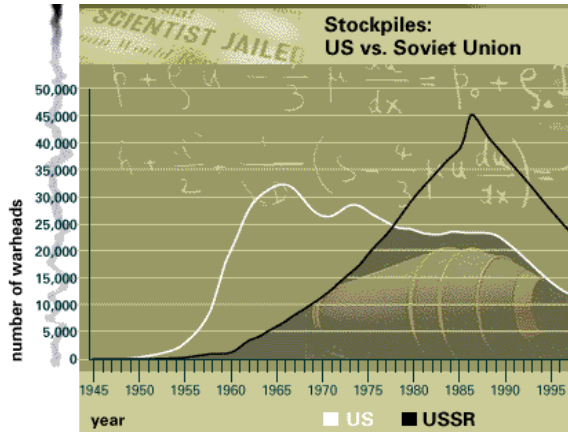
---

---

---

---

12



13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Global Stratification

### 4. How to “upgrade” poor nations?

#### a. Traditional Modernization Theory

*(Structural-Functional Emphasis)*

- 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



14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 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



15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Global Stratification

## 4.b. Dependency Theory 1970s→ (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

---

---

---

---

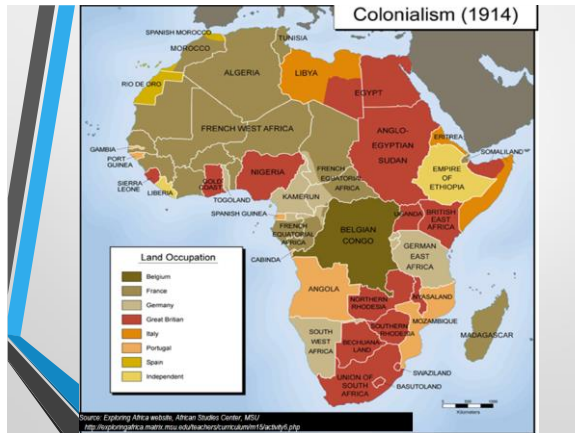
---

---

---

---

16



---

---

---

---

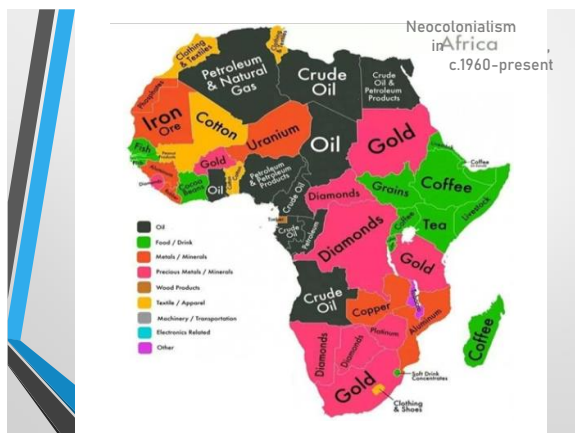
---

---

---

---

17



---

---

---

---

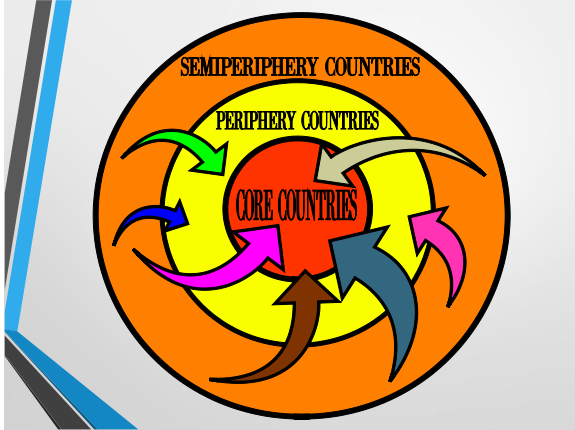
---

---

---

---

18



19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

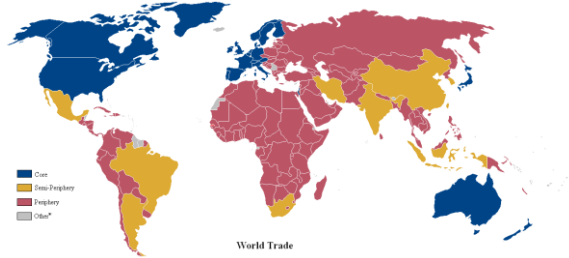
---

### Global Stratification

**Core Countries:** post-industrial nations with service economies and high-incomes; rich countries

**Semi-Periphery Countries:** generally industrialized; mediate between core and periphery countries; middle-income countries

**Periphery Countries:** generally early industrial, agricultural; provide raw materials for world capitalism; poor countries



20

---

---

---

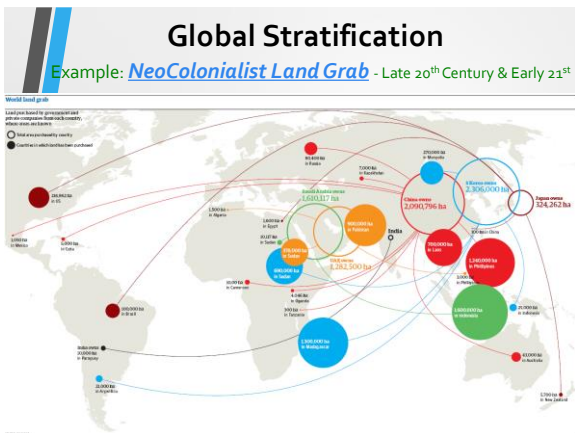
---

---

---

---

---



21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---