

Social change subject

Third lecture

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" The causes of social change"

Introduction

All cultures change over time because cultures are dynamic, not static. There are many factors that stimulate change , the text focuses on eight of them:

- 1- culture**
- 2- Conflict**
- 3- Idealistic factors**
- 4- The need for adaptation**
- 5- Environmental factors**
- 6- Economic & political advantage**
- 7- Technology and Information**
- 8- Religion**

1- Culture

Culture is a system that constantly loses and gains components. There are three main sources of cultural change:-

❖ invention.

Inventions produce new products, ideas, and social patterns. The invention of rocket propulsion led to space travel, which in the future may lead to inhabitation of other planets.

❖ **discovery.**

Discovery is finding something that has never been found before, or finding something new in something that already exists.

❖ **diffusion.**

Diffusion is the spreading of ideas and objects to other societies. this would involve trading, migration, and mass communication.

2- Conflict

Another reason social change happens is due to tension and conflict (between races, religions, classes, etc...). Karl Marx thought that class conflict in particular sparked change.

3- Idealistic factors

Idealistic factors include values, beliefs, and ideologies. from Max Weber's perspective: in essence, values, beliefs, and ideologies have a decisive impact on shaping social change. These factors have certainly broadly shaped directions of social change in the modern world for example:-

❖ **Freedom and self-determination**

❖ **Material growth and security**

❖ **Nationalism**

❖ **Capitalism:** not only the type of economic system, but also ideology, competition and free markets.

❖ **Marxism**

Max Weber thought that the expression of ideas by charismatic individuals could change the world. Here are some examples of influential people who caused changes in the world (good and bad): Martin Luther King, Jr.; Adolf Hitler; Mao Tseng Tug; Gandhi & Nelson Mandela.

4- The need for adaptation

The need for adaptation within social systems, for example: the development of efficient bureaucracies is an adaptive response of firms to a competitive economic environment.

5- Environmental factors

Change can be through the impact of environmental factors such as drought and famine. The degree of natural disasters between different countries and regions also lead the different social changes between the countries. The shift from collecting, hunting and fishing to agriculture may have happened because, in some areas, the human population grew too large to be sustained by existing resources.

6- Economic & political advantage

International shifts in economic or political advantage also have great impacts on social change. For example, 'globalisation' & 'the WTO' are key factors in our modern society affecting the global economy, political structures and dynamics, culture, poverty, the environment, gender etc.

7- Technology and Information

As a society develops to higher levels, non-material resources play an increasingly important role as factors of production. This principle is embodied in the concept of the information age, an era in which access to information has become a valuable input and precious resource for improving the quality of decisions and the productivity of activities.

8- Religion

Society develops in response to the contact and interaction between human beings and their material, social and intellectual environment. Ethical views differ greatly from country to country. This is partly because of factors such as culture and religion.

The questions

1- There are many causes of social change discuss the following causes clearly:-

A - The need for adaptation

B - Religion

C- Environmental factors

D- Technology and Information

2- According to Max Weber "the expression of ideas by charismatic individuals could change the world" did you agree with him?if your answer (yes) give example for that.

3-There are three main sources of cultural change:invention,discovery and diffusion .express about these sources.

4- Fill the blanks with the appropriate words between the brackets.

(famine, decisive ,drought, Idealistic factors , diffusion,ethical)

1- **diffusion** is one of the sources of culture change.

2- **Idealistic factors** include values, beliefs,and ideologies.

3- **Ethical** views differ greatly from country to country.

4- Idealistic factors have a **decisive** impact on shaping social change.

5- Change can be through the impact of environmental factors such as **drought** and **famine** .

5- Choose the correct answer from the words below.

word	meaning
Invention	A thing that has been made or designed by somebody for the first time.
Components	One of the parts that together form something.
embodied	To be a very good example of something.
Discovery	Finding something.
Diffusion	The spreading of something more widely.
Conflict	A serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one.
Tension	The condition of not being able to relax that is caused by worry or nervousness.
decisive	Making something certain or final.
intellectual	A person who is interested in ideas , literature, art ..etc..
Ethical	Connected with ethics
adaptation	Able and willing to change to suit new condition.

(Invention , embodied , discovery , decisive , components , mitigation , adaptation , intellectual , conflict , reflection , tension , diffusion, sentimental , structure , experiment)

- 1- (**intellectual**) a person who is interested in ideas , literature, art ..etc..
- 2- (**Conflict**) a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one.
- 3- (**Diffusion**) the spreading of something more widely.
- 4- (**Tension**) the condition of not being able to relax that is caused by worry or nervousness.
- 5- (**Discovery**) finding something.
- 6- (**decisive**) Making something certain or final.
- 7- (**embodied**) to be a very good example of something.
- 8- (**Components**) one of the parts that together form something.

9- (**Ethical**) Connected with ethics.

10-(**Invention**) a thing that has been made or designed by somebody for the first time.

11- (**adaptation**) able and willing to change to suit new condition.