

# **Social change subject**

## **Fifth lecture**

**Instructor : Dalal Mohammed**

**" Studies of social change"**

### **1- Demography and social change**

**❖ Portes, Alejandro and Ruben G. Rumbaut. 1996. Immigrant America: a portrait (second ed.). Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press.**

An authoritative overview of the immigrant experience in the U.S. The authors give an overview of immigration patterns and trends but also seek to explain how first and second generation immigrants make a living, adapt to their environment and change the societies they live in.

### **2- Technology and change**

**Mackenzie, Donald A. 1996. Knowing machines: essays on technical change. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.**

A collection of essays on high-technology, focusing on the relationship between technical development and self-validating beliefs about technology. Two conceptual essays are followed by seven empirical studies focusing on the laser gyroscopes that are central to modern aircraft navigation technology, on supercomputers (with a particular emphasis on their use in the design of nuclear weapons), on the application of mathematical proof in the design of computer systems, on computer-related accidental deaths, and on the nature of the knowledge needed to build a nuclear bomb. Technically sophisticated and conceptually rich.

### **3- Economic and political change**

**Haggard, Stephan and Robert R. Kaufman. 1995. The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions Princeton: Princeton University Press.**

The comparative political economy of democratic transitions, with a focus on Latin American and Asian countries. The authors analyze the economic basis of

‘authoritarian withdrawals’; the importance of economic reform in newly established democracies (given economic and institutional hangovers from previous regimes); and the consolidation of democratic and market institutions in the longer run.

#### **4- Planned change and community change**

**Reinelt, Janelle (ed). 1996. *Crucibles of Crisis: performing social change*  
Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press**

An uneven but interesting collection of papers with an unusual focus: the authors examine the role of the performing arts in generating, reflecting upon and participating in social protest and change. The essays examine the way in which the theater, in particular, can become a focus for explosive political or cultural controversy by serving as a vehicle for usually unheard groups or ideas. The contributors generally discuss the impact a particular play or theater company had: examples run from an Irish Women’s Theatre group at the turn of the century to African drama and nationalism in South Africa.

#### **5- Organizational change**

**Barnett, William P. And Glenn Carroll. 1995. ‘Modeling Internal Organizational Change.’ *Annual Review of Sociology* 21:217-236.**

A review of the literature. The authors divide work into theories about the process and content of organizational change. The population ecology approach provides the main framework and assumptions.

#### **6- Institutions and change**

**Abbott, Andrew. 1988. *The system of professions: an essay on the division of expert labor*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.**

A thorough comparative and historical examination of professions and professionalization. Abbott argues that the historical development of professions is driven by continuing conflict over their respective jurisdictions (the link between an occupational group and the work it does). A fascinating study that

self-consciously examines the process of professionalization: how groups emerge, how they fight, why some win and how boundaries change. Three detailed case-studies from law, psychotherapy and information professionals.

### **7- Culture and social change**

**Dobbin, Frank. 1994. 'Cultural Models of Organization: the social construction of rational organizing principles' in Sociology of Culture: Emerging theoretical perspectives ed Diana Crane, Oxford: Basil Blackwell.**

A clear and comprehensive analytical review of cultural approaches to the study of organizations and institutions. Dobbin focuses on the rise of the neoinstitutionalist perspective and its efforts to explain 'hard' areas of social life (such as the economy) in cultural terms.

### **8- Social theory and social change**

**Castells, Manuel. 1995. The Rise of the Network Society. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.**

First of three volumes (all are now published). A huge, synoptic and somewhat sprawling effort to grasp and theorize the economic, social and cultural transformations of the last thirty years. Castells argues that societies are increasingly dependent on information flow, and thus on the actors who control this flow.