

LECTURE 007

Modern Western Civilization

This mixed ancestry gave Western civilization a rich heritage to draw on. Greek achievements in mathematics, science, philosophy and art, and Roman developments in law, government and technology, all had a deep impact on later European civilization. The religion of Christianity, deriving from the Middle East but absorbed into the Graeco-Roman civilization, constituted one of the great pillars of the medieval and modern West. Added to these elements were major Indian, Chinese, Persian and Arabian achievements in science and technology, transmitted to Europe via the Islamic world.

Both Greece and Rome also contributed the idea of republican government, and this, plus the fragmented power structures fostered by medieval feudalism, enabled a feature unique to Western civilization to emerge: representative government.

A second unique feature developed in early modern times, a distinct and rigorous way of looking at the world.

Today we call this approach "science". Over the past few centuries this has powered unparalleled technological advance, and with it, economic growth. This combination of technology and wealth has made the West into the dominant world civilization on the planet.



Industrial Revolution

Britain's economy was being transformed by another kind of revolution - the Industrial Revolution. This had been gathering pace since the mid-18th century, and had been greatly boosted by the efficient application of steam power to mechanical devices. By the end of the century, large industrial towns were growing up in the Midlands, the north of England and Scotland, in which hundreds of factories churned out vast quantities of manufactured goods. The early 19th century saw this economic expansion continuing in Britain, and beginning to spread to North America and (particularly after the end of the Revolutionary wars) in Europe. The application of steam power to transport further

stimulated this trend, with railways spreading their tentacles throughout Britain, Europe and North America. These in turn acted as a powerful boost to the expansion of the United States and Canada across the North American continent, and by the mid-19th century these two countries had reached the Pacific coast.

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By this time, steam ships were beginning to take over from sailing vessels on the sea routes of the world. With the introduction of refrigeration, meat and other perishables could be transported between continents, and the world was being linked by an ever denser network of trade routes.

Read: <http://www.timemaps.com/>

Society

Historically, societies referred to as civilizations have shared some or all of the following traits.

- Tool making, which permits the development of intensive agricultural techniques
- Division of labor came in to existence.
- The gathering of these non-food producers into permanent settlements, called cities.
- A form of ruling system or government.
- A social hierarchy consisting of different social classes.
- A form of writing will have developed, so that communication between groups and generations is possible.
- The establishment of complex, formal social institutions such as organized religion and education, as opposed to the less formal traditions of other societies.
- Development of complex forms of economic exchange.
- A concept of a 'Higher being', though not necessarily through organized religion, by which a people may develop a common worldview that explains events and finds purpose.
- A concept of time, by which the society links itself to the past and looks forward to the future.
- A concept of leisure, permitting advanced development of the arts.
- Development of criticism.

Social organization

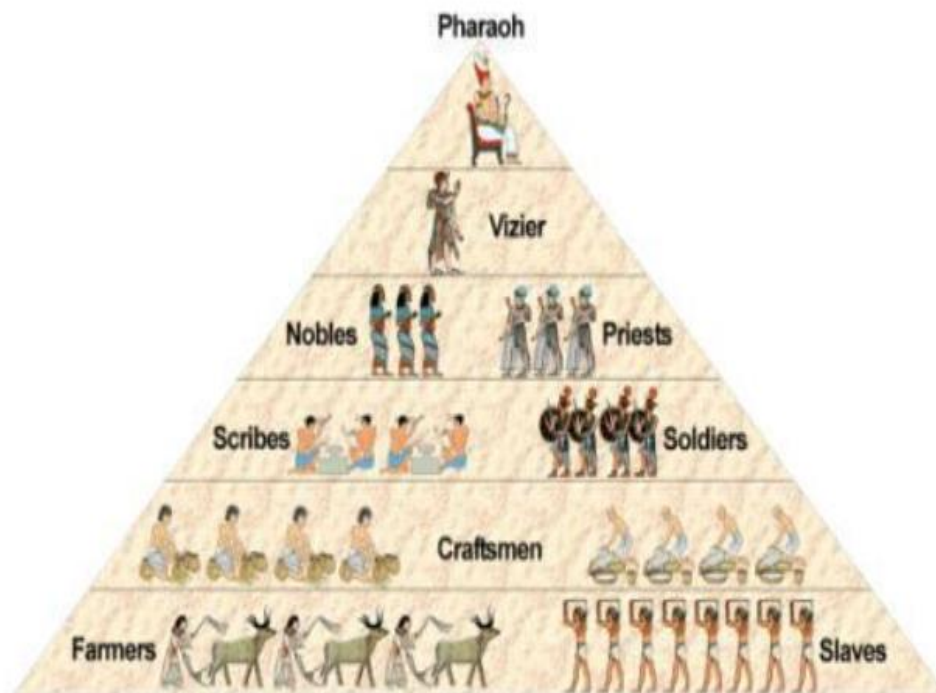
A social animal has some organized interaction between individuals. In the human condition there are complex social interactions within and between several organizational categories: individual, in-group, family, polity and ethnic culture.


Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest level of biological organization, and the smallest visible unit in social organization.
In-Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to all of the many different social groupings that an individual participates in and identifies with. Family, polity and

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	<p>culture can be considered in-groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can thrive or fail, and so are subject to evolutionary pressure
Out group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-group is defined by negation to be everything outside the in-group. • It is a construct of the in-group, and doesn't have any actual social reality
<p>Dynamics of in-group/out-group conflict and social enforcement of boundaries between the in-group and out-group seem to be a basic aspect of human nature present at all levels of social organization.</p>	
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family is the smallest unit of social organization.
Polity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the highest level of effective political organization, which in ancient times would be the village or tribe, and in modern times is the nation-state.

Social hierarchy in the ancient Egyptian civilization

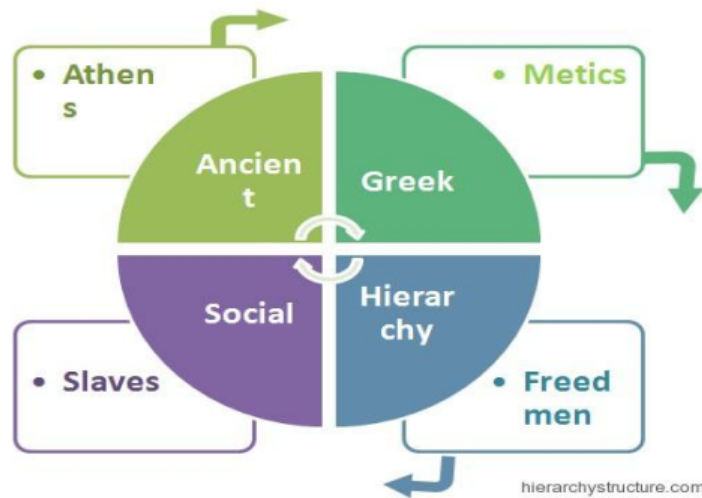


	<p>The pharaoh was believed to be a God on earth and had the most power, responsible for making laws and keeping order. It was believed that Egypt was not attacked or invaded by enemies.</p>
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	<p>The vizier was the Pharaoh's chief advisor and was sometimes also the High Priest. He was responsible for overseeing administration and all official documents had to have his seal of approval.</p>
	<p>Nobles ruled the regions of Egypt and were responsible for making local laws and keeping order in their region.</p>
	<p>Scribes were the only people who could read and write and were responsible for keeping records regarding army, number of workers, harvest etc.</p>
	<p>Soldiers were responsible for the defense of the country. Second sons were chosen in the army. Soldiers were allowed to share riches captured from enemies and were also rewarded with land for service to the country.</p>
	<p>Craftsmen were skilled workers such as pottery makers, leather workers, sculptors, painters, weavers, jewellery makers, shoe makers, tailors. Groups of craftsmen worked together in workshops.</p>
	<p>Farmers worked the land of the Pharaoh and nobles and were given housing, food and clothes in return.</p>
	<p>Slaves were usually prisoners captured in war. Slaves could be found in the households of the Pharaoh and nobles, working in mines, quarries and in temples.</p>

Social hierarchy in the ancient Greek civilization



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Athens – The Upper Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people of this class possessed the uppermost power and position in the society. • One has to be born in Athens to be a part of the Upper Class as the rights for this class could only be inherited on the hereditary basis. • The upper class symbolized a good civil character, good artistic taste, and highly socialized individuals. • The people from this class handled all the government work, philosophy as well as the literature department, and also the war. • Athens people always got slaves so as to perform their materialistic works so as to save their precious time which they had to use for administrative purposes.
Metics – The Middle Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These people came to Athens to settle down for earning their livelihood. • Such people were apt for the Middle Class. • They possessed very little rights as compared to the Upper Class. • They were majorly involved in the trading and manufacturing related jobs.
Freedmen – The Lower Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was the lower class people category but did not belong to Athens, i.e. these were neither Athens nor were granted citizenship in their life what so ever money they earned. • These were the people who possessed least amount of privileges, but still got few, as compared to slaves who had zero privileges.
The Slaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the lowest most class, actually a level because Greeks never considered it as a class. • These people were either rescued from war, some criminals or even bought upon people. • These people possessed zero rights or authority. • They did not even possess right of their own life.