



EU Challenges in the process of globalisation in the EU

Academic Year 2012-2013

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PART ONE: THEORETICAL & EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

Module 1: *Theoretical Framework*: Economic and social changes in European and global perspective:

- § Overview of (disciplinary) approaches and methodologies
- § Social Changes in Europe
- § European sociology

Module 2: Europe: Past, present and future:

- § Characteristics European civilisation
- § European integration process: overview
- § Assessment of the existing European debate

MODULE ONE

Economic and social changes from a European and
global perspective

? I. Overview of (disciplinary) Approaches

? II. Theory of Social Change: social changes in
Europe

? III. European sociology

I. Overview of (Disciplinary) Approaches

Setting the debate in a comparative and changing macro-social setting:

§A socio-economic system

§Shaping forces of socio-economic systems: level of economic development, social & cultural forces, geopolitical/geographical setting

§Assessment

Overview

? A. Economy and Markets: economic liberalism

? B. Economy and the State: political economy

? C. Economy and Values:

§Socio-economics

§Moral economics

? D. Economic Sociology

A. Economy and Markets: Economic liberalism(neo-classical)

? Core Components: individual sovereignty, self-interest, rationality, private property rights, self-regulating market and spontaneous order

? Assessment relationship Economy-Markets:

§ wider societal context

§ analytical extension

§ dynamic dimension with damaging effects

B. Economy and the State: Political economy

? Core concept: power relationship

? Focus: state-market relationship at national and international level

? Assessment:

§ permanent debate between the 2 organisation principles of social life: international public goods

§ welfare state as an applied market economy system

§ institutional economics

C. Economy and Values

1. Socio-economics: economy and the social dimension of society

? Vision: welfare

? Socio-economic goals: consumption, sustainability, meaning, enhancing activities and economic justice

2. Moral Economics: economy and ethics

? Origin: Aristotle: "oikos", "polis" and the "ethos"

? Subjectivity of Ethics: an ethical (I. Kant/categoric imperatif) and an economic answer (free market/social contract) > ethical relativism

? Return to ethics

§ Questioning of a value free science and focus on a vision-embedded society

§ Renewed moral relation between the individual and the community (E. Morin, H. Henderson, McIntyre, C. Taylor, etc.): contents

? Conclusion

D. Economic Sociology:

Culture-inclusive Theory

1. Conceptual setting:

- § Re-integration of the economy in culture: mutual interaction
- § Redefinition of culture: *“a set of values and practices through which individuals seek out meaning”*

2. Role of Culture: integration of economy into society

- § Social order (E. Durkheim): order-maintaining role
- § Social transformation (M. Weber): order-transforming role

3. Cultural symbolism: shift from use-value to symbolic value

4. Assessment:

- § How do societies hold together?
- § Role of nation states and the globalization trend in culture
- § Economies embedded and differentiated (Granovetter)

II. Social changes in Europe: comparative analysis

1. Types of society
2. Theory of social change: changing institutions in modern societies
3. The making of contemporary Europe:

1. Types of society

Pre-modern societies:

- § Hunting and gathering
- § Agrarian/pastoral
- § Urban society: traditional states or civilization (non-industrial)

Modern societies: the industrial societies

- § emergence of machine production, based on the use of inanimate power resources
- § 90% live in towns (impersonal social life)
- § Political systems are more developed in intensive, more integrated national communities
- § First Nation-states
- § Colonialism (XVII à early XX): industrial society vs traditional societies; First , Second and Third World

Post-modern Societies

- § Fragmentation & segmentation
- § Increased competition
- § Individualization
- § Globalisation and regionalisation

2. Theory of Social change

What is social change?

- § changes in the underlying structure/organization over a period of time
- § changes in relation to what remain stable as a base for comparison (e.g. Industrial Revolution, Christianity, Islam)

Social change: the transformation over time of the institutions and cultures of society

Constat: Social change and the development of social organizations and institutions can not be understood by any single-factor theory of social change

What determines social change? Broad categories of influences are:

- § Cultural factors (religion, communication systems, individual leadership)
- § Physical environment (climate, communication routes)
- § Political organization

2. Social change:

Changes in the (post-) modern period

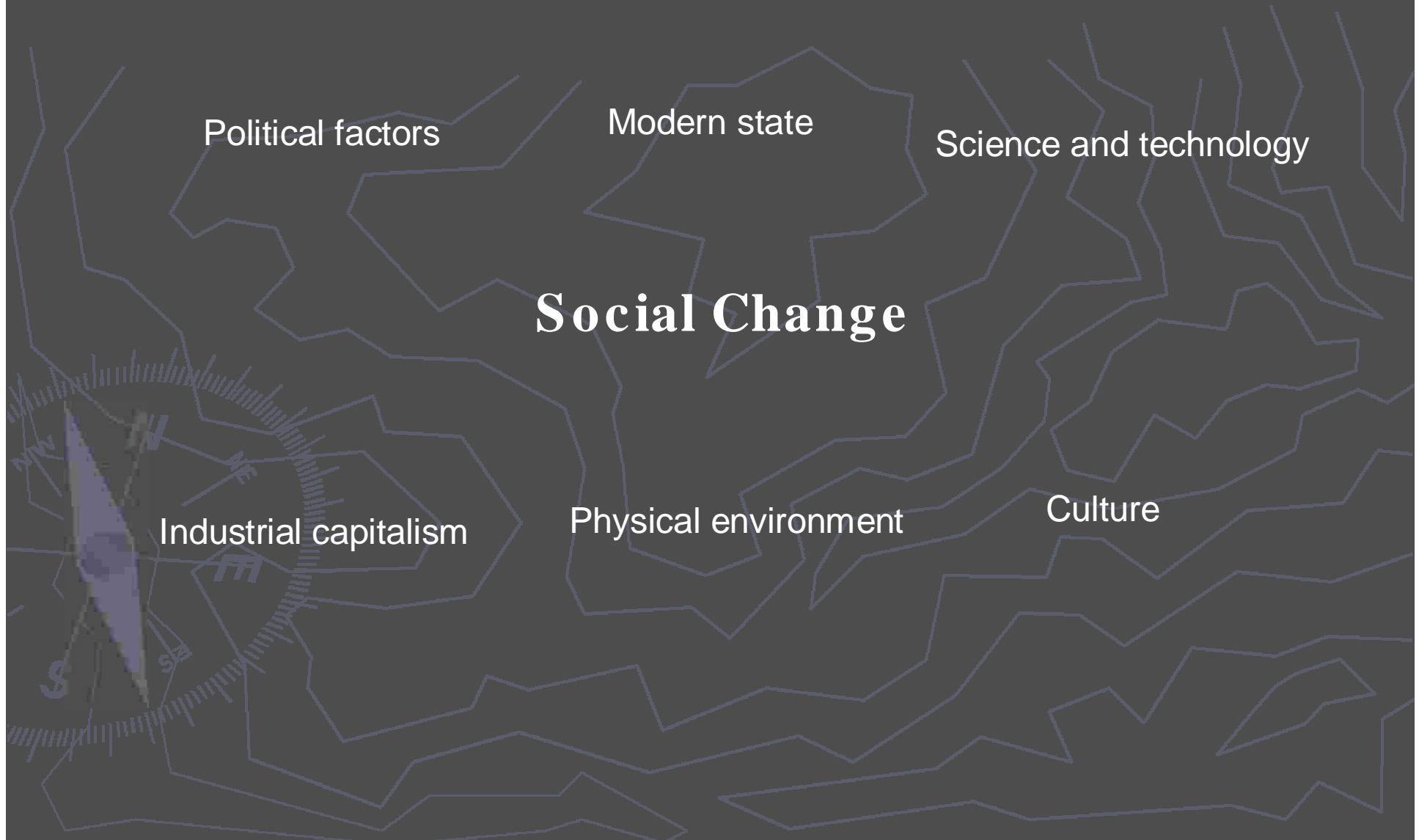
Explanations of rapid acceleration in the speed of social change

- § Cultural influences: science & secularization: critical and innovative character (how and what we think)
- § Economic influences: industrial capitalism, European integration
- § Geo-Political influences

Examples:

- ? Industrial capitalism: most important economic influence on modern social change (characterized by constant innovation and revision of productive technology);
- ? European integration
- ? Globalisation

2. Social change



Changing Institutions in Modern Societies: four set of institutions: interdependent and tense relations

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

- ? Organisation of employment: work, occupations, small, medium and big enterprises
- ? Organisation of working life: working time,
- ? Sectors of employment: industrial, service, knowledge-based,

TRADITION & COMMUNITY

- ? Family
- ? Education
- ? Religion
- ? Nation State: ethnicity & identity
- ? Culture

OWNERSHIP/ CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY

- ? Inequality (class structures)
- ? Forms of economic governance: markets, hierarchies, states, corporatism and networks of reciprocity

SOCIETY

- ? Political democracy
- ? Organisation of Social Interests
- ? The Welfare State
- ? (Active) Citizenship

3. The making of contemporary Europe:

Two major phases:

A. Mid 20th century social compromise:

- § Organised capitalism or Fordism-Keynesianism
- § Increasing moves to regulation: excessive competition + (negative) social consequences
- § Characteristics

B. Post-industrial/Post-modern era: focus on flexible accumulation of wealth (late 20th century)

- § Disorganised capitalism or post-fordism: knowledge/information society
- § concept of flexibility:
- § Characteristics: "Individualizing Society"
- § Major fundamental changes:
- § Assessment:
 - ? Importance of impersonal market forces at global economic level > network of interactions: de-location, mobility, de-territorialisation
 - ? Role of the State: national state capacity + international organisations
 - ? Role of Society: competitive individualism (entrepreneurship) vs need of human security

III. European Sociology: a theoretical, European and global perspective

? A. What is Sociology

? B. Contemporary theory and practitioners

A. What is Sociology

1. Definition
2. Sociological Practice
3. Origin
4. Founders/ Issues
5. Theoretical Approaches
6. Level of analysis
7. Practical implications

1. Definition

- ? Sociology: the systematic scientific study of human societies (i.e. human social life, groups and societies), with special emphasis to modern, industrialized systems
- ? Sociological questions:
 - § How did this world come about?
 - § Why are our conditions of life different?
 - § What directions will change take in the future?
- ? Wide scope of sociological study

2. Sociological Practice

- ? Think imaginatively
- ? Detachment from pre-conceived ideas about social life, detachment from daily routine and capacity to abstract
- ? Connect the local with the global and the individual to the larger picture and vice versa
- ? Reflect upon the relationship between social structure and agents à structuration
- ? C. Wright Mills (1970): "sociological imagination"

3. Origin

? Attempt to understand the far-reaching changes occurred in societies over the past three centuries.

? Changes: large scale as well as shifts in the personal life

? Not "a valid for everybody" body of ideas

4. Founders

? Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

? Karl Marx (1818-1883)

§ Mid-nineteenth century

§ Basic issues of sociology: nature of sociology, impact of changes brought by modernization

? Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

? Max Weber (1864-1920)

? Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)

Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

- ? Invented the word "sociology" (β social physics)
- ? All sciences share the same logic and scientific method aimed at revealing universal laws
- ? Positivism: science based on observable entities known directly to experience:
 - § causal relationships between events
 - § predictions on future events
- ? Law of the three stages to understand the world: theological, metaphysical, positive

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Concern: connect economic problems with social institutions

Capitalism and class struggle

Materialistic conception of history

? Historical stages: hunters and gatherers → slave-owning systems → feudal systems → merchants and craftsmen : emergence of commercial or capitalist class

Inevitability of a workers' revolution

Economic influences on social change

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

- § Comte did not carry out the program of establishing sociology on a scientific basis
- § "Study social facts as things"
- § Social facts have a reality of their own: external and with coercive power over individuals (not recognized often by individuals)
- § Social change/division of labor → emergence of a new type of solidarity: organic solidarity as opposed to mechanical solidarity
- § "Anomie" :feeling of aimlessness or despair provoked by modern social life
- § Study of suicide: insist on sociological explanations

Max Weber (1864-1920)

- ? Rejects the materialistic conception of history: ideas and values have as much impact on social change than economic factors
- ? Sociology should focus on social actions in which motivation and ideas are the forces behind change
- ? Reference to "ideal type"
- ? Emergence of modern society accompanied by important shifts in patterns of social action: Rationalization (rational and instrumental calculations taking into account efficiency and future consequences)
- ? Rationalization = development of science, modern technology and bureaucracy (efficiency and technical knowledge)
- ? Capitalism is dominated by science and bureaucracy (large scale organizations) not class conflict
- ? Disenchantment: sweeping away forces of sentimentality by scientific thinking

Max WEBER:

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Question: why did capitalism develop in the West and nowhere else?

- § Desire to accumulate wealth = spirit of capitalism
- § Rejection to follow a luxurious life
- § Re-investment of wealth to promote the further expansion of the enterprise

Early capitalists were mostly Puritans (Protestantism and Calvinistic view)

- § Human beings are God's instruments on earth
- § Human beings are required to work in a vocation for the greater glory of God
- § Success in vocation is indicated by material wealth

Assessment: contributing to theory-building, understanding complexities, stimulating future research

Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)

- § Introducing sociology to Britain
- § The study of society implies focusing on all its aspects: political, religious and social institutions
- § Analysis of society must include an understanding of women's lives
- § The first to turn a sociological eye to issues like marriage, children, domestic and religious life, race relations

5. Theoretical Approaches

Diversity of theoretical approaches:

? Functionalism:

§ looks at society as a whole: contribution of a social activity to society.
(Merton: manifest functions and latent functions)

? Conflict theories:

§ study of inequalities using the concept of class

? "Symbolic interactionism":

§ exchange of symbols between individuals in social interaction (small scale interactions of individuals)

? Different frameworks to explain social reality:

§ *Social reality (pre-)exists independently of people's talking about it or living it.*

§ *Social constructionism: looking at the processes through which reality is constructed (Berger & Luckman, *The Social Construction of Reality*", 1996.*

Social constructionism

? Sociological theory of knowledge:

§ Social construction is a concept or practice that is the construct (artefact) of a particular group

§ study the development of social phenomena in social contexts based on reality, knowledge and learning

§ all knowledge, also common sense knowledge, is derived from and maintained by social interactions

§ Obvious facts of social reality may differ among people from different cultures and among people of the same culture: subjective creation of social reality

? Source of the postmodern movement and influential in the field of cultural studies

? Social Constructionism has been criticized for its unwillingness to accept broader social forces as powerful influences on observable social outcomes

6. Levels of analysis

? Micro-sociology

§ Everyday behaviour

? Macro-sociology

§ Large scale social systems: political systems, economic order, ...

§ Long term processes of change: industrialism, modernity, ...

7. Practical Implications

Contributions to:

- ? Social criticism
- ? Practical social reform

Reasons:

- ? Improved understanding of sets of social circumstances
- ? Means of increasing cultural sensitivities (i.e. awareness of divergent cultural values): consequences of adoption of a particular policy programme
- ? Provides self-enlightenment: opportunity to alter the conditions of our own life

B. Contemporary theory and practitioners

1. Current theoretical context and content
2. Sociological theory in the global era:
postmodernism
3. Contemporary “global” European
thinkers/sociologists

1. Current theoretical context & content

- ? Ideas developed by classical thinkers continue to provoke debate/disagreement:
- ? Four basic theoretical dilemmas are matters of continuing controversy:
 - § a. Human action and social structure
 - § b. Consensus and conflict in society
 - § c. Gender
 - § d. Modern social development

a. Structure and (Human) Action

? Durkheim: society has primacy over the individual person

?

? Society = composite of many individuals

§ We have reasons for what we do, we inhabit a world permeated by cultural meanings

§ We are creators not creatures

? Evaluation:

§ Important for all fields of social sciences

§ Society is not external as the physical world

b. Consensus and conflict

- ? Functionalists thinkers: society is treated as an integrated whole with structures that mesh closely with one another
 - § its institutions must work in harmony with one another → cooperation → consensus

?

- ? Marx: societies are divided into classes with un-equal resources → divisions of interests
 - § Society is full of tension
- ? Evaluation:
 - § All societies involve degrees of consensus and division
 - § Important is the connections between consensus and conflicts between social systems

c. Gender

- ? Durkheim: man is almost entirely the production of society, women are to a far extent the product knowledge of nature
- ? Today: female identity is as much shaped by society than male identity
- ? Marx: gender differences in power and status reflect other divisions: class division
- ? Rise of women's movement: assault on perceived male bias in sociological theory and methodology:
 - § Centrality of gender in analyzing the social world
 - § Most feminists agree that knowledge is integrally related to questions of sex and gender: different constructs of the understanding of the world
- ? Judith Butler: gender is not a fixed category but a fluid one
- ? Susan Faludi: domination of men in all spheres is a myth

d. Shaping the modern world

? Marxist perspective

§ Modern society = capitalistic society

§ Pressure over constant economic transformation à constant technological innovation to remain competitive

? Weber's view

§ Capitalism = only "one amongst others" major factors shaping social development in the modern period

§ Science + bureaucracy ß à rationalization

Comparison

Marxist ideas	Weberian ideas
Capitalist economic growth	Rationalization of production
Class inequalities are basic to nature of modern societies	Class just one type of inequality among many
Power derives ultimately from economic inequalities	Power is separable from other sources, e.g. gender
Capitalist societies are transitory on road to socialism	Rationalization will go further in future in all spheres
Western dominance is a result of expansionist logic of capital	Western dominance comes from command over industrial resources and military power

Assessment

- ? Influence on the analysis of industrialized and less developed society
- ? Differing political positions: left vs rights, north vs south, conservatives vs liberals
- ? Today's paradoxes. A complexity of (multi-level) issues, mixed consequences of globalisation, governance challenges: exit vs voice, security vs freedom, mind vs matter, rationality vs intuition, tradition vs creativity

2. Recent sociological theory in the global era: Postmodernism

- ? Classic social thinkers took their inspiration from the idea that history has a shape: it goes somewhere and leads to progress.
- ? This notion has now collapsed: there are no longer any “grand narratives” or meta-narratives, there is no history (Francis Fukuyama)
- ? Postmodern society, dominated by media, is highly pluralistic and diverse
- ? We come in touch with many images and ideas which have little connection with the history of the areas in which we live or with our personal histories

Postmodernism

- ? Focus on a decentred and fragmented society
- ? No overarching framework of social order and regulation or universal cultural ideals
- ? Focus on differentiation and cultural specificity

Reference authors

? Jean Baudrillard

? Michel Foucault

? Pierre Bourdieu

Jean Baudrillard (27/07/1929-6/3/2007)

Who? French cultural theorist, sociologist, philosopher, political commentator

Point of departure: Electronic media has destroyed the relationship to our past and created a chaotic and empty world.

- § Social life is influenced above all by signs and images (vs Marx's market forces)
- § In a media dominated age, meaning is created by the flow of images → make-believe universe in which we respond to images rather than real persons/real situations
- § Dissolution of life into a screen (TV)

Michel Foucault (15/10/1926-25/06/1984)

Who? French philosopher, sociologist and historian

Attempts to illustrate shifts of understanding which separate thinking in our modern world from that of earlier ages (crime, body, madness, sexuality)

Analysis of modern institution and their role in controlling and monitoring the social population:

- § There is another side of Enlightenment ideas about individual liberty which are connected with surveillance and discipline
- § Relationship between power, ideology and discourse in modern organizational systems
- § Many concepts, beliefs and structure are taken for granted because they are familiar

Pierre Bourdieu (August 1, 1930 – January 23, 2002)

- ? Sociology of culture or a "Theory of Practice: connect theoretical ideas with empirical research, grounded in everyday life".
- ? Key terms: habitus, *capital* and field.
- ? Extension the idea of capital to categories such as social capital, cultural capital and symbolic capital.
- ? Each individual occupies a position in a multidimensional *social space*: he or she is not defined only by social class membership, but by every single kind of capital he or she can articulate through social relations. That capital includes the value of social networks, which can be used to produce or reproduce inequality.

3. Contemporary (“global”) European thinkers/sociologists: new concepts

- ? Zygmunt Bauman
- ? Ulrich Beck
- ? Manuel Castells
- ? Anthony Giddens
- ? Jurgen Habermas
- ? Edgar Morin
- ? Amartya Sen
- ? Amitai Etzioni

Zygmunt Bauman (19/11/1925-)

Who? Polish sociologist

Core concept: liquid society

Publications:

- ? "La Società dell'incertezza" (1999)
- ? "Modernità liquida" (2002)
- ? "La Società individualizzata" (2002)
- ? "L'Europa è un'avventura" (2006)
- ? "L'arte della vita" (2009)

Ulrich Beck (May 15, 1944 -)

Who? a German sociologist, professor at Munich University and at the LSE

Core concept: global risk society

- ? The second modernity
- ? What postmodernists see as lack of pattern (chaos) he sees as risk or uncertainty: → the management of risk is the prime feature of the global order
- ? The nature of risk is changing: it derives less from natural dangers or hazards than from uncertainties created by our own social development (science and technology)
- ? Hazards are not restricted spatially, temporally or socially
- ? There must be transnational cooperation between states
- ? New forms of activism appear: sub-politics = activities of groups and agencies operating outside the formal mechanisms of democratic politics

Ulrich Beck

Le cinque autoillusioni della politica nell'era globale,
Editorial La Repubblica 25/10/2010

Publications:

- ? *What is globalisation /Che cosa è la globalizzazione (2000)*
- ? *Power in the Global Age (2005).*
- ? *Cosmopolitan Vision (2006).*
- ? *Cosmopolitan Europe (with E. Grande)(2007)*
- ? *Conditio Humana: Il rischio nell'eta globale (2008)*

Manuel Castells (Albacete, Spain, in 1942)

Who?

- ? a Spanish sociologist associated with information society and communications research.
- ? His sociologic work synthesises empirical research on urban sociology, organization studies, internet studies, social movements, sociology of culture and political economy

Core concept: the network economy

- ? The Information Society is marked by the rise of networks and network economy
- ? Telecommunications and computers are the basis of production
- ? In the network society personal identity becomes an open matter: we do not take any longer our identities as given but we need to make them
- ? We no longer fully control the world we created
- ? ICTs can be means of local empowerment and community renewal

Publications: The *Information Age* trilogy: Castells, Manuel, *The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture Vol. I (1996), Vol. II (1997) & Vol. III (1998)*/, Cambridge, MA; Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

Amitai Etzioni (4/01/1929, Cologne, Germany)

- ? Who? a German-Israeli-American sociologist, known for his work on socio-economics and communitarianism
- ? **The New Golden Rule:** argues for the need to balance freedom with morality, and autonomy with community. He proposes a new golden rule: "Respect and uphold society's moral order as you would have society respect and uphold your autonomy." [
- ? **The Moral Dimension:** offers an examination of the role of ethics, moral values, and community in economics. He argues for the replacing of the neoclassical paradigm with the "I & We" paradigm.

Anthony Giddens (January 18, 1938 -)

Who? a British sociologist renowned for his theory of structuration and his holistic view of modern societies, Third Way

Core concept: social reflexivity/reflexive modernity

- ? Theoretical perspective on the changes happening in the present-day "run-away world": new risks and new uncertainties: ongoing reflection
- ? The notion of "trust" is to be placed at the side to that of "risk"
- ? Traditional forms of trust tend to dissolve
- ? Trust = confidence in abstract systems
- ? Living in the Information Age: increase in social reflexivity

Publications:

- ? *The Third Way. The Renewal of Social Democracy* (1998)
- ? *Sociology* (2006)
- ? *Europe In The Global Age* (2007)
- ? *The Politics of Climate Change* (2009)

Jurgen Habermas (June 12, 1929 -)

Who?

- ? German philosopher and sociologist in the tradition of critical theory and American pragmatism
- ? constructed a comprehensive framework of social theory and philosophy drawing on a number of intellectual traditions: advances the goals of human emancipation, while maintaining an inclusive universalist moral framework
- ? Major contribution: the development of a comprehensive theory of societal evolution and modernization focusing on the difference between communicative rationality and instrumental rationality.

Core concept: Democracy and the public sphere

- ? No alternative to capitalism, however we need to re-establish our control over economic processes: revival of the public sphere
- ? Reform of democratic processes, more involvement of community agencies and local groups: Media can contribute

Publications:

- ? *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (1962)
- ? *The Theory of Communicative Action* (1981)
- ? *Europe. The Faltering Project* (2009)

Edgar Morin (July 8, 1921 -)

? Who?

§ a French philosopher and sociologist

§ known for the transdisciplinarity of his works, covering a wide range of interests

§ dismisses the conventional boundaries between academic disciplines

? Core concept: complexity

He attempts to reconsider the relation-triangle: ideology-politics-science through the method of "complexity", which "respects the mystery" of the universe (vs simplification)

? **Publications**: The six volume masterwork "*La Méthode*": *La Nature de la nature* (1977); *La Vie de la vie* (1980); *La Connaissance de la connaissance* (1986); *Les Idées* (1991); *L'Humanité de l'humanité* (2001) and *L'Éthique complexe* (2004)

Amartya Sen (3 November 1933 -)

Who?

- ? an Indian economist-philosopher and Nobel Prize-winner
- ? known for his contributions to welfare economics, his work on famine, human development theory, welfare economics, the underlying mechanisms of poverty, gender inequality, and political liberalism

Core concepts: Human capability development

Publications:

- ? On Ethics and Economics (1987)
- ? Freedom and Globalization/Globalizzazione Libertà (2002)
- ? Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny/Identità e Violenza (2006)
- ? The Idea of Justice (2009)

European Sociology: Assessment

Beginning of a new phase of development of sociological theory?

§ Global transition as profound as that that generated the classical thinkers?

§ Global transition much more widely felt across the globe

à Need to develop new theories to understand the new developments with are transforming our societies today