

# Sociology : A Brief Introduction

*Let's learn, share and empower!!!*

E-Learning Program : Sociology Series  
Source / Author : Richard T. Schaefer  
Prepared by : Roemah Gadang Yenny & Wisanggeni  
Weblog : [www.wisangyenny.wordpress.com](http://www.wisangyenny.wordpress.com)  
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## *Fathonah, Amanah, Sidiq and Tabligh*

*Semua orang akan rusak, kecuali orang yang berilmu.  
Orang yang berilmu pun akan rusak, kecuali orang yang beramal.  
Orang yang beramal pun akan rusak, kecuali yang ikhlas.  
(Al-Ghazali)*

# What is Sociology?

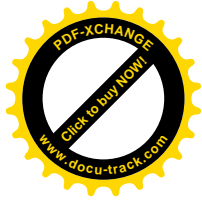
## Sociology

– Systematic study of social behavior in human groups

– Focus on:

- How relationships influence people's attitudes and behavior
- n How societies develop and change





# What is Sociology?

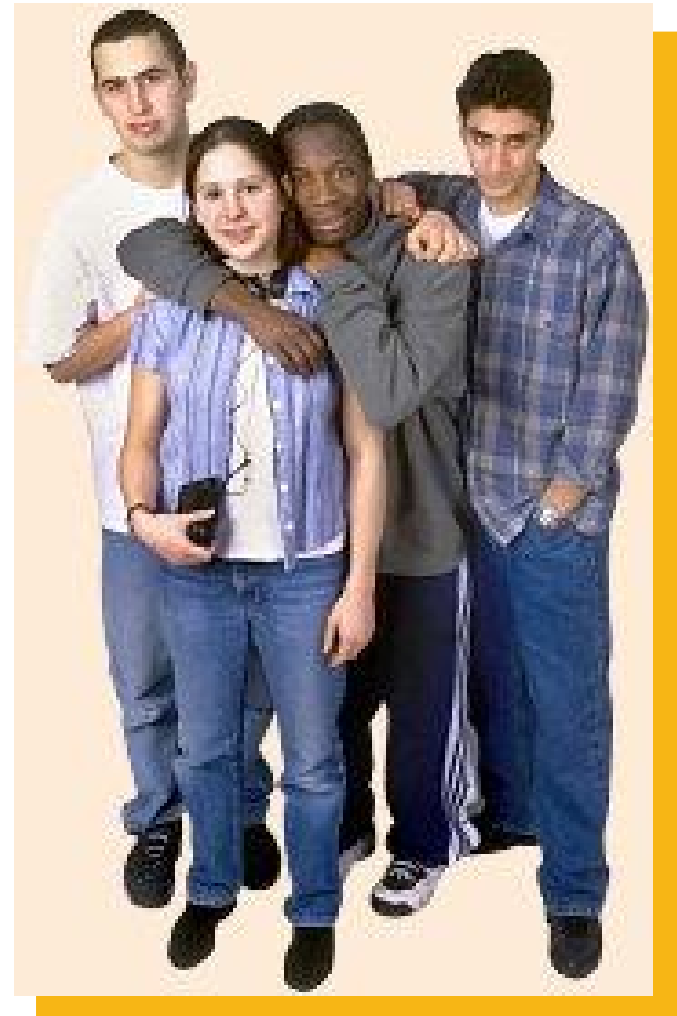
## The Sociological Imagination

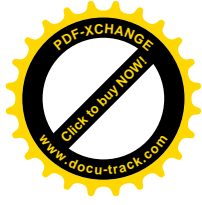
- ⊗ Awareness of relationship between an individual and the wider society
- ⊗ Ability to view our own society as an outsider would, rather than from perspective of our limited experiences and cultural biases

# What is Sociology?

## Sociology and the Social Sciences

- ✧ In contrast to other *social sciences*, sociology emphasizes the influence that groups can have on people's behavior and attitudes and ways in which people shape society





# What is Sociology?

## Sociology and the Social Sciences

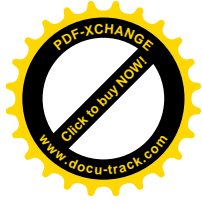
- ⊠ Science: body of knowledge obtained by methods based on systematic observation
- ⊠ Natural Science: study of physical features of nature and the ways they interact and change
- ⊠ Social Science: study of social features of humans and the ways they interact and change

# What is Sociology?

## Sociology and Common Sense

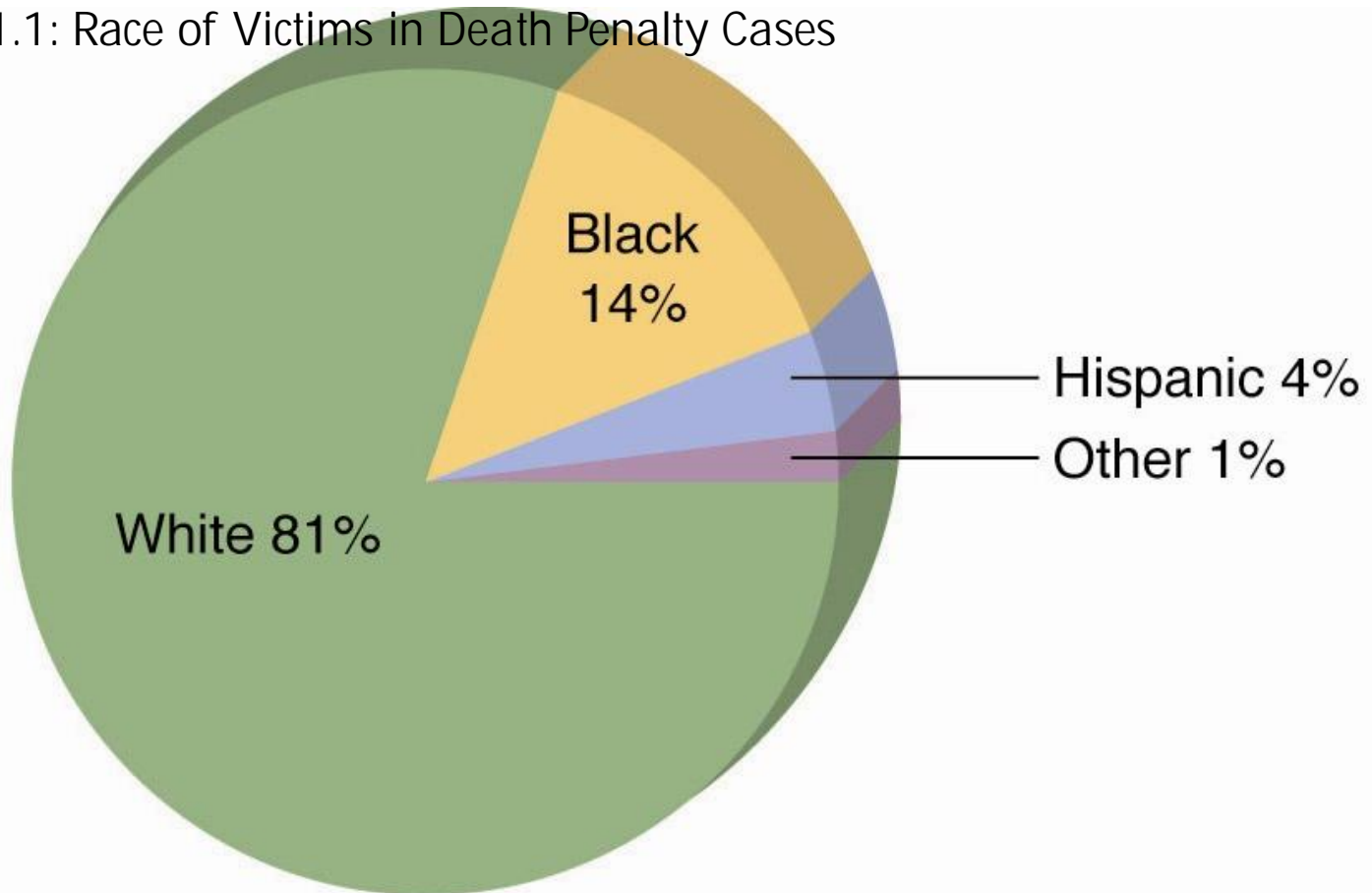
- ⊗ Knowledge that relies on “common sense” not always reliable
- ⊗ Sociologists must test and analyze each piece of information they use





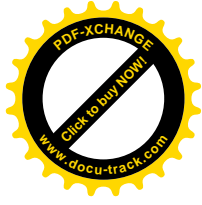
# What is Sociology?

Figure 1.1: Race of Victims in Death Penalty Cases



Source: Death Penalty Information Center 2003

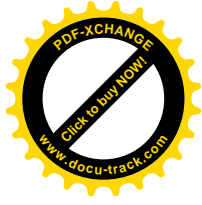




# What is Sociological Theory?

## Theory

- Set of statements that seeks to explain problems, actions, or behavior
  - Effective theories should explain and predict
- 
- Sociologists develop theories to explain how individual behavior can be understood within a social context



# The Development of Sociology

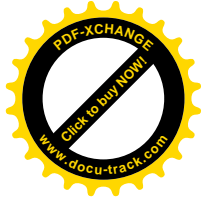
## Early Thinkers

–Auguste Comte 1798–1857

- Coined term *sociology* to apply to science of human behavior

–Harriet Martineau 1802–1876

- n Studied social behavior in Britain and United States
- n Emphasized impact economy, law, trade, health, and population could have on social problems



# The Development of Sociology

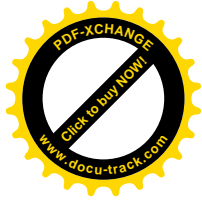
## Early Thinkers

–Herbert Spencer 1820–1903

- Applied concept of evolution to explain how societies “evolve” over time

–Émile Durkheim 1858–1917

- n Pioneered work on suicide
- n Insisted behavior must be understood within larger social context
- n Developed fundamental thesis to help explain all society



# The Development of Sociology

## Modern Developments

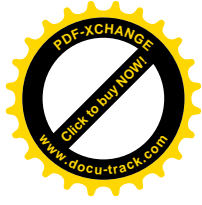
–Max Weber 1864–1920

- To fully comprehend behavior, we must learn the subjective meaning people attach to their actions

Ideal Type:  
construct for  
evaluating specific  
cases

–Karl Marx 1818–1883

- n Emphasized importance of economy and of conflict in society



# The Development of Sociology

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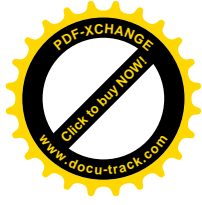
## ■ Modern Developments

– Charles Horton Cooley 1864–1929

- Pioneered work on small groups within society

– Jane Addams 1860–1935

- Combined sociological study with political activism



# The Development of Sociology

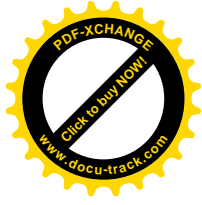
## Modern Developments

– Robert Merton 1910–2003

- Combined theory and research
- Developed frequently cited explanation of deviant behavior

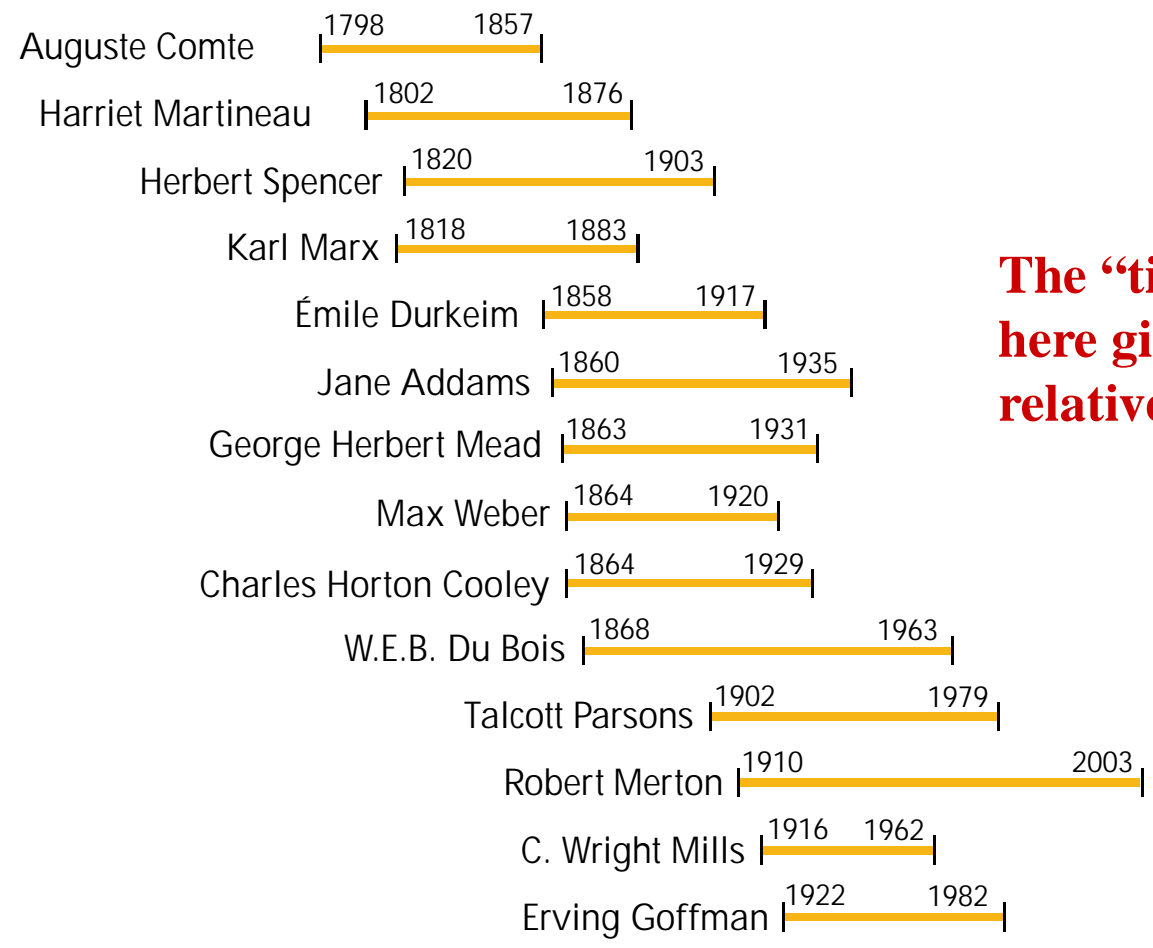
Macrosociology:  
concentrates on large-  
scale phenomena or entire  
civilization

Microsociology: stresses  
study of small groups,  
often through  
experimental means



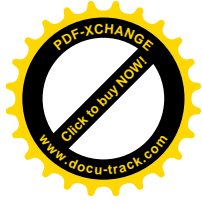
# The Development of Sociology

## Prominent Contributors to Sociological Thought



**The “timelines” shown here give an idea of relative chronology.**

Source: Figure 1-2 (p.15) in Richard T. Schaefer and Robert P. Lamm, *Sociology: An Introduction*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

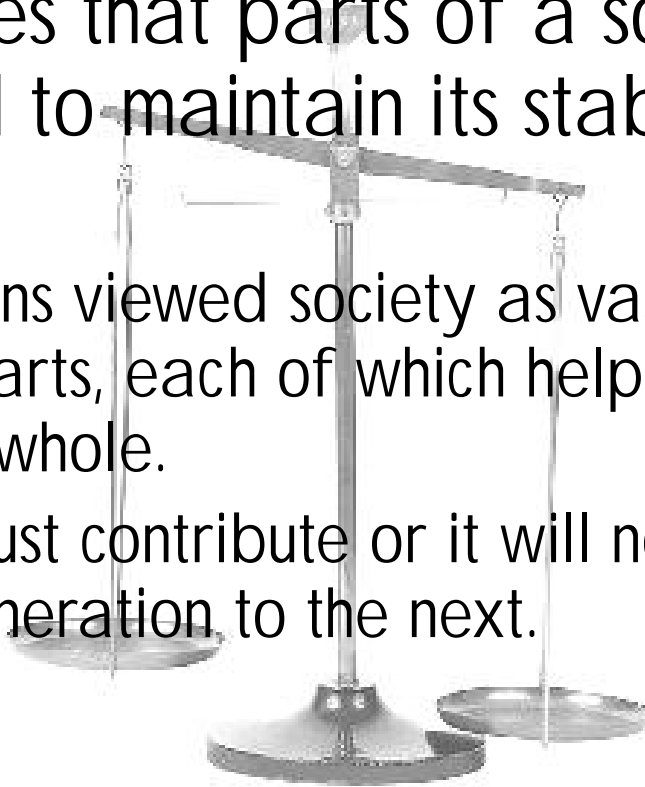


# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Functionalist Perspective

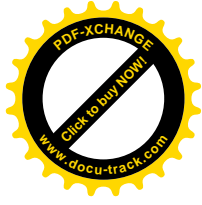
–Emphasizes that parts of a society are structured to maintain its stability.

- ✧ Talcott Parsons viewed society as vast network of connected parts, each of which helps to maintain the system as a whole.
- ✧ Each part must contribute or it will not be passed on from one generation to the next.



*Continued..*





# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Functionalist Perspective

Manifest Functions:  
open, stated, conscious  
functions of institutions;  
these involve intended,  
recognized, consequences  
of an aspect of society

Latent Functions:  
unconscious or unintended  
functions that may reflect  
hidden purposes of an  
institution

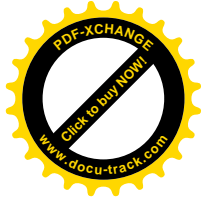
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# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Functionalist Perspective

- ✧ Dysfunction: element or process of society that may actually disrupt a social system or reduce its stability



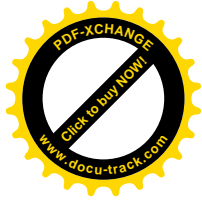


# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Conflict Perspective

- Assumes social behavior is best understood in terms of conflict or tension between competing groups
  - n Conflict not necessarily violent.
  - n Can take the form of labor negotiation, party politics, competition between religious groups for new members or disputes over federal budget

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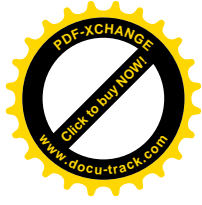


# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Conflict Perspective

- ⊗ The Marxist View: Conflict not merely a class phenomenon, but part of everyday life in all societies
- ⊗ Emphasis on social change and redistribution of resources makes conflict theorists more “radical” and “activist” than functionalists

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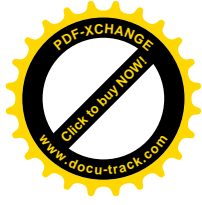
# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Conflict Perspective

–An African American Racial View:  
W. E. B. DuBois

- n Conflict theory encouraged sociologists to view society through the eyes of those segments of the population that rarely influence decision making.
- n Sociology had to draw on scientific principles to study social problems such as those experienced by Blacks in the United States

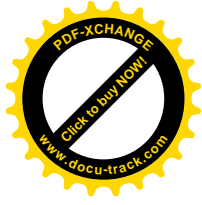
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# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## Feminist Perspective

- ✧ Views inequity in gender as central to all behavior and organization
- ✧ Sometimes allied with conflict theory, the feminist perspective also focuses on micro-level relationships of everyday life, just as interactionists do

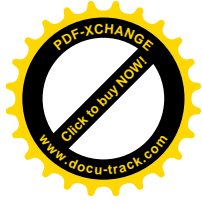


# Major Theoretical Perspectives

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## Interactionist Perspective

- ⊗ Generalizes about everyday forms of social interaction to explain society as a whole.
- ⊗ Sociological framework for viewing human beings as living in a world of meaningful objects.



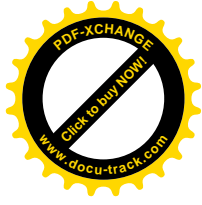
# Major Theoretical Perspectives

summingUP

<b>Table I-1</b>		<b>Comparing Major Theoretical Perspectives</b>		
	<b>Functionalist</b>	<b>Conflict</b>	<b>Interactionist</b>	
<i>View of society</i>	Stable, well integrated	Characterized by tension and struggle between groups	Active in influencing and affecting everyday social interaction	
<i>Level of analysis emphasized</i>	Macro	Macro	Micro, as a way of understanding the larger macro phenomena	
<i>Key concepts</i>	Manifest functions Latent functions Dysfunctions	Inequality Capitalism Stratification	Symbols Nonverbal communication Face-to-face interaction	
<i>View of the individual</i>	People are socialized to perform societal functions	People are shaped by power, coercion, and authority	People manipulate symbols and create their social worlds through interaction	

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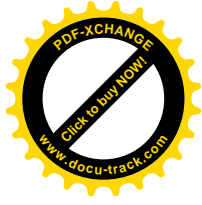




# Major Theoretical Perspectives

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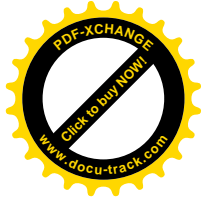
<i>View of the social order</i>	Maintained through cooperation and consensus	Maintained through force and coercion	Maintained by shared understanding of everyday behavior
<i>View of social change</i>	Predictable, reinforcing	Change takes place all the time and may have positive consequences	Reflected in people's social positions and their communications with others
<i>Example</i>	Public punishments reinforce the social order	Laws reinforce the positions of those in power	People respect laws or disobey them based on their own past experience
<i>Proponents</i>	Émile Durkheim Talcott Parsons Robert Merton	Karl Marx W. E. B. Du Bois Ida Wells-Barnett	George Herbert Mead Charles Horton Cooley Erving Goffman



# Major Theoretical Perspectives

## The Sociological Approach

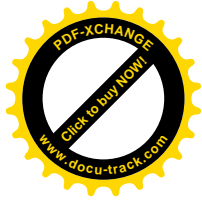
- ❏ Sociologists use all four perspectives
- ❏ We gain broadest understanding of society by drawing on all major perspectives, noting where they overlap or where they diverge
- ❏ Each perspective offers unique insights into the same issue



# Developing a Sociological Imagination

- Theory in Practice
- Research in Action
- The Significance of Social Inequality

- ✧ Social Inequality: condition in which members of society have differing amounts of wealth, prestige, or power

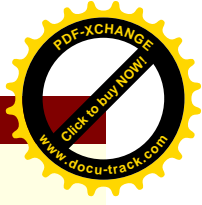
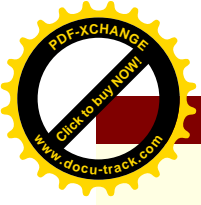


# Developing a Sociological Imagination

## ■ Speaking across Race, Gender, and National Boundaries

- Social Policy throughout the World





Richard T. Schaefer

# SOCIOLOGY: A Brief Introduction

Sixth Edition