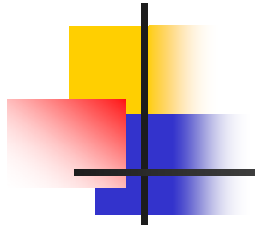


American Society
And
Changing Patterns



-
- Changes in Society
 - How it changes over time
 - The mix of people
 - The cultures incorporated
 - The attitudes that result



Change in American Society

- Growing diversity
 - Racially diverse society
 - Changing patterns of immigration
 - 19th century = Europe
 - 20th century = Latin America, Asia, Africa
 - i.e., people of color
 - 21st century = ?



Change in American Society

- Effects of growing diversity
 - Language and culture
 - Backlash
 - Nativism
 - Violence
 - Legislation to curb immigration



Change in American Society

- Location: We move....
 - 1900 - America as a nation of cities
 - By about the 1980s — America as a nation of suburbs
 - City issues are different than issues of the burbs...
 - Think of any?



Change in American Society

- Effects of movement from rural areas to cities, and from cities to suburbs
 - Diminished political power for rural areas and small towns
 - Shrinking tax base for central cities
 - Central cities' dependence on federal assistance make them Democratic strongholds
 - Suburban middle-class and working-class homeowners make them Republican strongholds



Change in American Society

- Changing Jobs & Occupations
 - America went from an agrarian to an industrial to a post-industrial society
 - Political implications?
 - Demands for expanded welfare programs of all types
 - Demands for policies to encourage economic development



Change in American Society

- Changing Jobs & Occupations (con't)
 - Huge expansion of female workers
 - Sixty percent of new jobs in the 1980s were filled by women; these were primarily white-collar and service jobs
 - Participation of women in the **paid** workforce is about 75 percent



Change in American Society

- Changing Jobs & Occupations (con't)
 - Consequences of women in the workforce?
 - Improvement in income
 - Formation of the “women’s movement”
 - Pressure for government-funded programs for children
 - Family Leave Act of 1993



Change in American Society

- Aging of America

- Proportion of population over age 65 is growing and proportion of population 18 – 64 is shrinking; proportion over 85 is growing rapidly
- This growing proportion of population is the most dependent on government services
- Debate over healthcare
- Financing of Social Security and Medicare
- Increasingly burdensome tax load on those still in the workforce



Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living - Income
 - America is one of the top six nations in the United Nations' Human Development index regarding education, living standards, income, and GDP
 - Stagnated from 1973 – early 1990s; took off in 1990s. This means
 - We expect steady improvement in our standard of living
 - Hostility toward taxes, immigrants, and welfare recipients



Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living – Equality
 - Disparity between rich and poor has become more pronounced
 - Mean family income stagnated and declined except for the very richest Americans
 - Three-fourths of income gains in the 1980s went to the top 20% of families; 100% of increased wealth went there too



Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living
 - Decline of the Middle Class
 - Helped defeat George H. W. Bush in the 1992 presidential election
 - Helped defeat Democrats in the midterm elections of 1994
 - Helped elect Barack Obama in 2008



Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living – Decline of the Middle Class
 - Economic boom of the 1990s saw growth for the middle class for the first time since the 1970s, so anger has abated.
 - But now?



Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living – Poverty
 - What are the characteristics of the prototypical poor person?
 - Racial minority
 - Female head of household
 - Young children



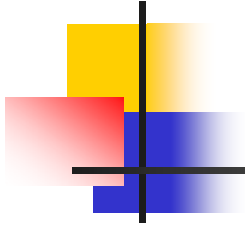
Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living – Poverty (con't)
 - Reasons for concern
 - Large number of poor
 - U.S. poverty rate is higher than other rich democracies
 - Poverty will increase because of current recession



Change in American Society

- American Standard of Living – Poverty (con't)
 - Political implications
 - Social problems
 - Inequality and democracy
 - In politics, money equals access
 - Lack of **political efficacy** on the part of the poor



The American Economy



Change in American Society

- The American Economy
 - Globalization
 - American economy rebounded in the 1990s
 - Single market and production system
 - Revolution in communications
 - Revolution in transportation
 - Revolution in the formation of global financial markets

► **GLOBALIZATION**

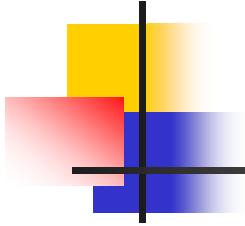
The largest American corporations are also global corporations in the sense that they produce, market, and sell their products all over the world. Here, men take a break at a Starbucks in a shopping mall in Khobar, Saudi Arabia.





Change in American Society

- The American Economy
 - The “Dreamliner” example
 - The role of sourcing
 - The role of out-sourcing
 - Polls show Americans are worried
 - Government response
 - Training?
 - Health Benefits?
 - Backlash on immigrants?



America in the International System



Change in American Society

- The U.S. in the International System
 - Isolationism from 18th – 20th centuries
 - World War II and superpower status
 - Cold War: Truman Doctrine, containment
 - Implications?
 - Large military establishment
 - Government spending on defense
 - Enhancement of the presidency
 - Growth of the secrecy establishment



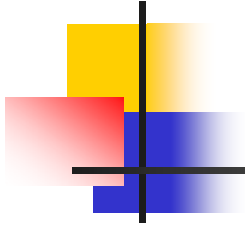
Change in American Society

- The U.S. in the International System
 - Superpower II
 - Death of communism in Eastern Europe
 - Demise of the USSR
 - China switched to a market economy



Change in American Society

- The U.S. in the International System
 - Superpower II
 - Bipolar world is now a multi-polar world
 - New foreign policy challenges
 - What are some of these challenges?
 - Difficulty building coalitions because of America's recent policy of unilateralism



American Political Culture



Change in American Society

- We look at other nations to compare how well we are doing.
- We notice differences:
 - Constitutional—fairly obvious; can you name some?
 - Demographic: fairly obvious; can you name some?
 - Cultural: much deeper and less obvious.



Change in American Society

- Foundational Beliefs of American Political Culture
 - **Foundational beliefs:** those that shape how we classify, think about, and resolve issues
 - **Political culture:** fundamental beliefs that have political consequences



Change in American Society

- Individualism

- An individual's fate is in his/her own hands
- You are responsible for your actions and well-being
- Endorse equality of **opportunity**, but reject equality of **results**
- Not common in other westernized countries



Change in American Society

- Limited government
 - Government should be limited in its power **and** in its responsibilities
- Capitalism
 - Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*
 - Capitalism versus socialism



Change in American Society

- Citizenship and the Nature of the political order
 - Our behavior is influenced by certain beliefs about what kind of political order is right and what is the role of the citizens
 - Democracy, Freedom & Liberty
 - Populism: innate distrust of the rich and the powerful



Change in American Society

- Citizenship and the Nature of the political order (con't)
 - Generational differences
 - Older: a good citizen votes, pays their taxes, obeys the law, supports the military
 - Gen X: skeptical of government and much more distrustful of government solutions