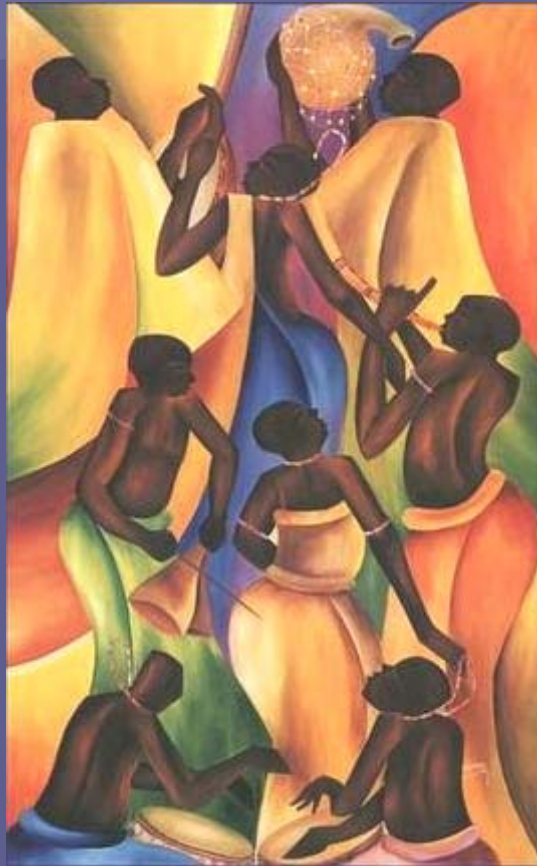


History of the Family



Types of Societies

- Types of Societies:
 - Hunting & Gathering
 - Agricultural societies (focus on colonial America)
 - Industrial capitalism (19th century)
 - Modern capitalism
- Economic system ↔ Family
- But: within each type, a lot of variety

Hunters and Gatherers

- Existed for 99% of human history
- Tools are simple, required a lot of skill
- But not primitive -- highly developed religion, arts, and family systems
- 5 common features:
 1. Divided into bands
 2. Unstable food supply
 3. Nomadic – more around a lot to follow the food
 4. No private property – instead, rules of sharing
 5. Communal life style
- A band = basic unit of society
- Example: !Kung San

Hunters and Gatherers

- Villages --10-30 people, semi-permanent = dependent on water
- Women -- gathering and childcare, men -- hunting, but division of labor is not rigid
- Both build huts and fires, get water
- Women produce more food (60-80%)
- All labor is highly valued – mutual dependency
- No class stratification
- Marriage is important: survival + “bride service”

Hunters and Gatherers

- Structural monogamy; polygamy is allowed, but rare
- In polygamy, rules to control jealousy:
 - Rules who can be the second wife
 - Rules about sex – can't concentrate on only one wife
 - Head-wife, typically the first one, allocates the work
- Divorce is easy to get and very common
- Sexuality is very important; men and women should be lusty and relaxed
- Don't think of men as sexually aggressive or of women as sexually passive
- Rape is rare; no sense of sexual possession
- Views on extramarital and premarital sex are very open
- Playful sexuality among kids is not prohibited
- Pregnancy before marriage → marriage, abortion, or adoption by her parents



Agricultural Society



- Domestication of animals + metals → Settle down → Property accumulation → Development of inheritance → Social stratification
- A family is a basic unit of society, multifunctional:
 1. Reproductive unit -- biological and social reproduction
 2. Economic unit -- production, distribution, and consumption
 3. Socialization and education
 4. Political unit = husband as a patriarch/owner, family life is public
 5. Social welfare = take care of old and sick
- Your survival depends on family survival
- Example: Colonial America



Agricultural Societies

- Marriage is necessary for your material survival
- Division of labor but all work was in or near the house
- Choice of a partner = instrumental rather than emotional
- Property involved → more parental control
- Variation in prevalence of arranged marriages, but always collective supervision of courtship and marriage
- Age at marriage is often higher than in H & G societies
- Colonial America: no arranged marriages
- “Calling”, then “keeping company”:
 - Location – her house
 - Helped maintain the class structure
- Weddings – focus on community more than on individuals
- No honeymoon – marriage is not for romance
- Sexuality = duty and joy of marriage, for procreation

Industrial Capitalism

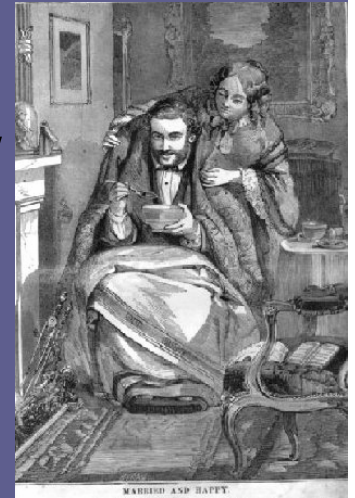


Match Makers Outside Their Factory

- Production for sale rather than production for self → from self-sufficient to monetary economy
- New organization of labor → new construction of family
- Family ceases to be the site of production but remains a unit of reproduction and consumption
- Early industrialization: factories either employed whole families or young women and children
- Work is then gradually redefined from something that women, men, and children do it to sustain family and community to something that men do for pay
- Jobs (men) vs family (women)

Ideology of Domesticity

- Men = breadwinners; aggressive, dominant, "self-made"
- Women = homemakers; naturally pure, pious, submissive, domestic
- Family as a private haven:
 - place to relax: notion of "free time"
 - private: ties to the community loosen
- Jobs: cold, rational, can't relax or "be yourself"
- Devaluation of housework – housework "disappeared," it's love and not work



Domesticity: Ideology vs Reality

- Only the wealthy women could live up to this ideology, enabled by poor women and rich husbands: "Women might work but not the ladies"
- End of the 19th century: <20% of married White women and <50% of married Black women worked outside the home
- But among those who stayed home, the majority worked for pay (boarders, making clothing, cigars, flowers)
- Men's success = being a breadwinner; difficult for working class men

Industrialization and Marriage

- Marriage is still lifelong and still primarily instrumental
- But: Family is increasingly sentimentalized, emotion as the glue
- Feminization of love
- Romantic love becomes more prominent
- Marriage for love – reduced parental control
- Weddings remain communal events, but -- honeymoons