

Theories of Social Change

Functionalist Theory

What does it say about change in society?

- * Emphasize what maintains society, not what changes it.
- * Social stability is due to cultural patterns.
- * As societies grow, they need new institutions and norms.

Functionalist Theory

Keywords?

- * Function, purpose, social structures, social institutions

Functionalist Theory

Are changes positive or negative?

- * Emphasizes stability and downplays change.

Conflict Change Theory

What does it say about change in society?

- * When groups have opposing interests they are in conflict.
- * Conflict drives change, society is prone to be in conflict.

Conflict Change Theory

Keywords?

* Inequities, class, rich vs poor

Conflict Change Theory

Are changes positive or negative?

- * **Positive:** Conflict is desirable and needed to initiate change and rid society of inequality.

Evolutionary Theory

What does it say about change in society?

- * All societies evolve from simple beginning to complex or developed.

Evolutionary Theory

Keywords?

* Simple → Complex

Evolutionary Theory

Are changes positive or negative?

- * **Positive:** As society progresses to higher levels, cultural attitudes and behaviors become more advanced.

Cyclical Theory

What does it say about change in society?

- * Trends, beliefs, traditions and values are cyclical, go in and out.

Cyclical Theory

Keywords?

* Seasons, in and out

Cyclical Theory

Are changes positive or negative?

- * Not always positive: Some past societies have been entering a period of decay

Challenge and Response

What does it say about change in society?

- * Civilizations rise and fall based on challenges and their response to them.
- * Ability to respond to challenges determines a societies fate.

Challenge and Response

Keywords?

* Challenges, response, fate

Challenge and Response

Are changes positive or negative?

- * **Positive:** Learn from their mistakes so they are not repeated.
- * **Negative:** Societies who cannot adapt die out.