Examining Social Life

Complete the graphic organizer by describing the three broad perspectives of modern sociology. Identify the early theorists whose ideas formed the basis for each perspective.

**Functionalist Perspective**
- Early Sociologists: 

**Conflict Perspective**
- Early Sociologists: 

**Interactionist Perspective**
- Early Sociologists:
Examining Social Life

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### SOCIOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functionalist Perspective</th>
<th>Views of Society</th>
<th>Topics of Study</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Sociologists:</td>
<td>Comte introduced issues of order and change; Spencer’s biological model described society in evolutionary terms as “survival of the fittest”; Durkheim saw society as interdependent parts and believed shared beliefs and values held society together. Today, functionalists view society as a set of interrelated parts that work together to produce a stable social system; consensus holds it together.</td>
<td>functions that family or education serve in society; dysfunctional, manifest, and latent functions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marx saw society as two classes, bourgeoisie—capitalists who owned everything, and proletariat—workers who owned nothing; class struggle for power between these groups would lead to a classless society. Today, conflict sociologists see competition over scarce resources as the basis of social conflict, which leads inevitably to change.</td>
<td>forces that promote competition and change; who possesses power and exercises it over those with less; decision-making in family; relationships among racial groups; worker-employer disputes</td>
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<td>Early Sociologists:</td>
<td>Weber’s focus on the individual rather than on society as a whole; attempt to understand meanings individuals attach to their actions; deduce essential characteristics of features of society.</td>
<td>how individuals interact with one another in society; meanings individuals attach to own actions; role symbols play in daily life; child development; relationships within groups; mate selection</td>
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</tbody>
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