

CHAPTER 1




Graphic Organizer: Possible Solutions

The Sociological Point of View

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.

SOCIETY

	Views of Society	Topics of Study
<p>Functionalist Perspective</p>  <p>Early Sociologists: <u>Comte, Spencer, Durkheim</u></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Today, functionalists view society as a set of interrelated parts that work together to produce a stable social system; consensus holds it together.</p>	<p>functions that family or education serve in society; dysfunctional, manifest, and latent functions</p>
<p>Conflict Perspective</p>  <p>Early Sociologists: <u>Marx</u></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Interactionist Perspective</p>  <p>Early Sociologists: <u>Weber</u></p>	<p>Today, interactionists follow 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.</p>	<p>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</p>