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Spring 2015
T, Th 3:30-4:50 PM
HSS 1330
Office Hours: T,W 2-3 PM

SOCIOLOGY 20 SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE MODERN WORLD

Just over one hundred years ago—within the lifetime of some people who are still alive today—most human beings lived in villages, farmed for a living, and were governed by kings or emperors who did not speak their languages. If you wanted to send a message from your village to someone on the other side of the world, you had to take it there yourself, or else you had to tell it to someone, who would tell it to someone else, who would tell it to someone else, and so on; if you were very lucky, maybe a literate person would write your message in a letter or transmit it by telegraph somewhere along the line. Even in a wealthy society like the United States, few people had ever used an electrical appliance, driven an automobile, or spoken on a telephone. The fastest computer on earth was a human being who was good at math.

How did that world change into our world? And what will our world look like in another hundred years?

Our goal in this class is to investigate *social dynamics*, or the most general evolutionary (and revolutionary) processes by which societies change. We will begin our study of social change by delving even deeper into the distant past, and we will conclude by exploring what can be known about the future of society.

Requirements

You are expected to attend all lectures, to do the reading on time, and to come to lecture and your section *with the text* and prepared to discuss the reading. You are also expected to comply with the section attendance and participation policies of your TA.

The grade will be based on the following:

- Section attendance and participation (15%)
- In-class exams in weeks four (15%), seven (20%), and ten (25%)
- A short paper of no more than 5 double-spaced pages, to be turned in during the scheduled final exam period (25%)

Academic integrity

I assume your familiarity with the [UCSD Policy on the Integrity of Scholarship](#), and with scholarly norms concerning proper attribution and citation. Here is a helpful list of [on-line resources](#) that provide useful instruction in how to study, how to write, and how to cite your sources so as to avoid plagiarism. If you are unsure whether your work conforms to UCSD policy, ask me for help before you turn it in. The bottom line for this course: it is *never*

acceptable to represent others' work as your own, even a little bit, even by mistake. If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, I will assign a failing grade on the assignment and report the incident to the Academic Integrity Coordinator. There are no exceptions to this rule.

The required readings include two books: Richard Lachmann, *States and Power*, and David Christian, *Maps of Time* (any edition). They are both available immediately from Amazon in a Kindle edition, and print editions are on order at the campus bookstore.

The readings may include additional class handouts or notes posted to the course web site.

Week 1. When did we become modern?

Christian, ch. 11

Week 2. Why did societies stay so small for so long?

Christian, ch. 7

Week 3. How is society like a cage?

Christian, ch. 8-9

Week 4. Why did empires rise and fall?

Lachmann, ch. 1-2

Week 5. Where did revolutions come from?

Christian, ch. 10, 12

Week 6. Why is the world divided into nations?

Christian, ch. 13

Week 7. When did it all start to move so fast?

Christian, ch. 14

Week 8. Why did different societies follow different paths?

Lachmann, ch 3-4

Week 9. Is democracy here to stay?

Lachmann, ch. 5-6

Week 10. Can we stay modern forever?

Christian, ch. 15

Lachmann, ch. 7