

Study Questions, Week 15

Topic for the Week: Social Change: Processes and Products

Readings for the Week:

Society: The Basics, Chapter 16
Sociological Footprints, Chapters 60 (Bell) and 61 (Ervin)

Questions:

- (1) What is meant by *social change*? Identify and describe four general *characteristics* of social change.
- (2) What *causes* social change? Identify and explain five general causes of social change.
- (3) What is a *social movement*? Identify, explain and provide an example of four general types of social movements. Identify and explain five theories of how social movements form and operate.
- (4) What characterizes *modern society*, and distinguishes modern society from traditional society? Distinguish the explanations of modernization provided by Ferdinand Tönnies, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and Karl Marx.
- (5) Modernization fundamentally redefines our relationship to each other and our institutions, but it also changes our *identity*, or the way we see ourselves. In what ways are our identities shaped by mass society? What are some social problems that arise from this process?
- (6) Modern society embodies an inherent tension between *personal freedom* and *social responsibility*. In what ways is this tension manifested?
- (7) What characterizes *post-modern (or post-industrial) society*? Is post-modern the same thing as *globalization*? Explain.
- (8) Explain how post-modern (or post-industrial) society changes: *personal identity*, the nature of *knowledge*, and *social institutions*.
- (9) The U.S. society is *aging* rapidly. What are some changes that we might see as the average age in the U.S. increases?