

## Study Questions, Week 9

- (1) What is meant by the term *stratification*? How does stratification differ from *social inequality*? What are some indicators used to measure stratification?
- (2) What is the difference between *income* and *wealth*? Which is a better indicator of one's position in society?
- (3) How do various systems of stratification (slavery, castes, estates, classes) differ? What are characteristics unique to each system?
- (4) Contrast Karl Marx's and Max Weber's theories of stratification. How does each define *social class*? What factors determine social class, according to each theorist?
- (5) What is meant by the term *poverty*? How does *absolute poverty* differ from *relative poverty*? Which groups are more likely to live in poverty in the U.S.?
- (6) What did Weber mean by *life chances*? What are some factors that determine life chances? How do life chances affect stratification?
- (7) What is meant by the term *social mobility*? What distinguishes *open* from *closed* systems of stratification? What factors affect social mobility in the United States?
- (8) What does the term *globalization* refer to? How has globalization increased stratification in the world system? What role have *colonialism*, *dependency*, *multinational corporations*, and *free trade agreements* played in constructing global stratification?
- (9) How does stratification in Mexico differ from the United States? Consider differences in race relations, gender, economic factors, and workplaces.
- (10) What does Weber mean when he says "class situation is ultimately market situation" (p. 86 in *Intersections* reader). How do social classes differ from *status groups*? What are some of the elements that comprise status groups?