PART ONE:
POWER AND POLITICS FROM STATELESS SOCIETIES TO GLOBAL CAPITALISM

FACING POLITICS AND POWER IN ANTHROPOLOGY
Early Anthropological Perspectives on Power

Power and social stratification

Power and “complex societies”

Politics is the process by which power is distributed and decisions are made

Weber: power—coercion & authority
Early Anthropological Perspectives on Power

**AUTHORITY:**
1. Legal-Rational Authority
2. Traditional Authority
3. Charismatic Authority
Typologies of Power and Political Systems

Evolutionary typologies

Kinship to State

--Maine (1861): Status vs. Contract
--Morgan (1877): Descent group vs. Property
--Engels (1884): Kinship vs. Territory
--Durkheim (1893): Mechanical vs. Organic Solidarity
--Mauss (1925): Gift exchange vs. Commodity exchange
## Typologies of Power and Political Systems

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunter-gatherers</td>
<td>Band (family level)</td>
<td>Head man</td>
<td>Egalitarian society</td>
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<td>Farmers</td>
<td>Tribe (local group)</td>
<td>Big man</td>
<td>Ranked society</td>
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<td>Civilization</td>
<td>Chiefdom</td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>Stratified Society</td>
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<td>Complex</td>
<td>Stratified society</td>
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Typologies of Power and Political Systems

Structural-Functionalist correspondences:

Meyer Fortes & E. E. Evans-Pritchard (1940:5-6) sub-Saharan Africa, two forms of polity:

“primitive states”—kingship & office

“stateless societies”—descent
Typologies of Power and Political Systems

--evolution of social complexity as a political process

--control over labour of non-kin

--Elman Service (1962):

*Band, Tribe, Chiefdom, State*
Typologies of Power and Political Systems

1. Foraging Bands
   --nuclear family
   --flexible band membership
   --kin networks
Typologies of Power and Political Systems

2. Tribal Cultivators

--descent groups
--leadership as an achieved status
--Village Headman
--“The Big Man”
--persuasion rather than coercion
Typologies of Power and Political Systems

3. Chiefdoms

--permanence of the office as a position of authority
--seniority of descent
--control over production, distribution, consumption
Typologies of Power and Political Systems

4. States

-- Carneiro (1970): “an autonomous political unit encompassing many communities within its territory, having a centralized government with the power to collect taxes, draft men for work or war, and decree and enforce laws.”
Typologies of Inequality

Morton Fried (1967):

Egalitarian—acephalous—generalized reciprocity

 Ranked—kinship—redistribution—balanced reciprocity

Stratified—market principle

State—“specialized institutions and agencies…that maintain an order of stratification” (Fried 1967: 235)
Typologies of Inequality

Differential access to means of production

Technology & cultural evolutionism

Marx (1904: 12):

The sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society—the real foundation, on which rise legal and political superstructures and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness. The mode of production in material life determines the general character of the social, political and spiritual processes of life
Typologies of Systems of Production

Foragers

Horticulture

Pastoralism

Agriculture
## Summary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sociopolitical Type</th>
<th>Economic Type</th>
<th>Type of Regulation</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>Foraging</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Inuit, !Kung-San, Comanche</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribe</td>
<td>Horticulture, pastoralism</td>
<td>Local, temporary regional</td>
<td>Yanomami, Nuer, Cheyenne</td>
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<td>Chiefdom</td>
<td>Horticulture, pastoral nomadism, agriculture</td>
<td>Permanent regional</td>
<td>Cherokee, Polynesia (Tahiti)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Agriculture, industrialism</td>
<td>Permanent regional</td>
<td>Ancient Mesopotamia, Incas, modern United States and Canada</td>
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