**Week 5: Development of Society; Formal Organizations; Bureaucracy;**

**Total Institutions**

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS**

This week starts with an overview of the historical development of society and its institutions. It will focus on key theories conceptualizing modern institutions and organizations. It also explores the role of bureaucracies in our lives and their advantages and disadvantages.

1. Explain the key characteristics of: the Hunter-Gatherer societies; Horticulture and Pastoralism; Agricultural societies; Industrialization; Post-industrialism.
2. How did class and gender relations change as societies settled and started practicing agriculture?
3. How did industrialization change social relations?
4. What is *Gesselschaft*?
5. What are the main consequences of post-industrialization in the United States?
6. According to Etzioni, how are organizations classified in modern societies? Explain three categories of organizations.
7. What is McDonaldization?
8. What are the key features of McDonaldization? What are the advantages and disadvantages of McDonaldization?
9. What is the name of the scholar who studied bureaucracies?
10. What are the key features of bureaucracies according to Weber? What are the advantages and disadvantages of bureaucracies?
11. What is Michels’s iron law of oligarchy?
12. How does culture shape organizations? What key differences between the US and Japanese organizations does the reading discuss?
13. What is resocialization and how does it happen?
14. According to Goffman, what are total institutions?
15. What are three key features of total institutions?

**General discussion questions:**

* + - 1. The first reading explains how societies became more unequal in terms of gender and wealth as they develop and become more complex. Do you think this trend can be reversed? Can you think of other sociological theories that offer alternative views of the processes of modernization?
      2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the post-industrial era? What kinds of skills are rewarded in post-industrial economies? Are post-industrial societies more or less equal and democratic when compared to the industrial ones?
      3. What are the goals of putting people in total institutions? Why do all modern societies have such institutions as prisons? Can you think of other methods of achieving the goals of total institutions without isolating people from the public?