Cheatography

UCSP - Political Organization Cheat Sheet

by Erich Toliongco via cheatography.com/186017/cs/41497/

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

universal system of norms, values, and roles for maintaining social order.

ASPECTS IN MAINTAINING ORDER

Creating formal norms

Applying sanctions

Settling disputes among individuals

Settling disputes between nations

THREE TYPES OF LAWS

CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS

from the constitution

STATUTORY LAWS

legislative bodies

COMMON LAWS

Unwritten laws

BANDS

Small, nomadic groups connected by family ties

politically independent

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

associations of families allied by kinship, marriage, descent, friendship, and common interest

LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

Horizontal status and power

Informal leaders emerge based on skills, knowledge, and community consensus

Temporary political power with no signif-icant authority

Decisions made by community consensus

POLITICAL GOALS

ensure harmony and resolve conflicts within the band

Quarrels often arise over food, relationships, or space

No. of people increases, potential for conflicts also rises

Conflicts may lead to the formation of new bands

POLITICAL SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS

No central leadership position with authority

Difficulty in creating binding treaties with Native American societies due to the diffused political system

SURVIVAL OF BRAND-LEVEL SOCIETIES

No traditional band-level societies exist today

Lasted until the late 19th century

TRIBES

TRIBES (cont)

Political power comes from senior positions within kin groups and the ability to persuade or criticize

leaders known as "***big men***" accumulate wealth to enhance status and influence, engaging in ritualized economic redistrib-ution.

*EGALITARIANISM AND SELF-SUFF-ICIENCY

essentially ***egalitarian***, with no family or residential group being politically or economically superior.

Families, including headmen's families, are self-sufficient in basic necessities

IMPACT OF CONTACT WITH LARGER SOCIETIES

Tribal societies face consequences when in contact with larger-scale societies

No tribes have maintained their traditional political systems unaltered by outside influences

CHIEFDOMS

CHIEFDOMS (cont)

ADVANTAGES IN WARFARE

Chiefdoms are more effective in warfare compared to bands and tribes

Larger populations allow assembly of larger military forces

Centralized direction by the chief enables more decisive action

ESSENTIAL ROLE OF CHIEFS

Once established, the position of the chief becomes essential to the functioning of society

Chiefdoms cannot revert to tribal levels unless their population significantly decreases

STATES

More complex than bands

increased population size and a shift in subsistence patterns

Kinship is based on more than family

INTEGRATIVE MECHANISMS

Pantribal associations or sodalities - new integrative mechanisms

bringing together individuals from different families

Serve to create order and unity within the tribe

LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL POWER

Village headmen exist

mostly classless societies

Distinguished by a permanent, full-time leader known as a chief with real authority

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Chiefs

BASIS OF STATUS

Seniority in kin groups is the primary basis

Chiefs are at the top of the kinship hierarchy, and others are ranked based on genealogical distance from the chief

ECONOMIC REDISTRIBUTION AND STANDARD OF LIVING

Chiefs and their families often have a higher standard of living

perform society-wide economic redistribution (similar to tax) by siphoning off surplus agricultural products and redistributing them, holding back some for the chief's lifestyle

contributes to economic advantages, social stability, and security in diverse environmental zones

POPULATION SIZE AND DISPUTES

Larger population leads to less commonality among people

Chief serves as an arbitrator and judge in disputes that cannot be settled informally based on kinship and friendship

State-level political systems originated from chiefdoms in societies with large-scale intensive agriculture

Evolved into centralized, authoritarian kingdoms with distinct classes based on wealth, power, and prestige

DEVELOPMENT OF STATES

Around 5,500 years ago, early kingdoms in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia developed state-level political integration

emerged in the Indian subcontinent and China shortly thereafter

By 4,500 years ago, Mesoamerica and the central Andean mountain region of western South America also saw the development of states

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Pyramid of authority with a hereditary elite class at the top, led by a king and royal family

Commoners, primarily food-producing farmers, constituted the majority at the bottom

WARFARE AND CONQUEST

Competition among independent kingdoms

Victorious kingdoms annexed weaker ones

URBAN CENTERS

Cities housed major temples of state religions

HIERARCHY AND ROLES

SLAVERY

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