SOCI 224: Social Structure of Modern Ghana

Session 1 – The Concept of Social Change

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Societies are not static, but dynamic. Some changes are gradual, while others are swift. This session introduces the concepts of social structure and social change to students. We will start by explaining the concept of social change, the causes of social change globally, and the sources of change in Ghana.
The key topics to be covered in the session are as follows:

- What is social change?
- The factors of social change
- Social change in Ghana-the impact of colonialism
- From traditionality to modernism Topic One


WHAT IS SOCIAL CHANGE?
What is social change?

- According to Robert Moore (1967) “any significant alteration in the social structure, which may originate endogenously or exogenously in any institutional area, bringing about changes in other institutional areas, which in turn make for further adaptations in the initial sphere of change”.
Sample Question

• Use the smart phone as a source of change to illustrate the concept of Social Change as given by Moore (1968).
Topic Two

SOURCES OF SOCIAL CHANGE
Sources of Social Change

• Industrialization
• Innovation/technology
• Education
• Social movements (such as the civil rights movements in the USA)
• Wars/civil wars/political instability
• Colonialism
• Urbanisation/modernisation
SOCIAL CHANGE IN GHANA: THE IMPACT OF COLONIALISM
Social Change in Ghana: the Impact of Colonialism

- Colonialism is the major source of change in the Ghanaian society. It was introduced from outside the Ghanaian society.
- The change which started in the political institution brought gradual changes into the other institutions till all the other institutions were affected.
- Apart from colonialism, other sources of change in the Ghanaian society are the attainment of independence on March 6, 1957 and the Military Coup d’etat led by the PNDC in December 31, 1981.
FROM TRADITIONALLITY TO MODERNISM
Features of traditional society

• Nukunya (2014) uses 1900 as the base year to determine the transition from traditionality to modernity.

• The features of a traditional society are:
  – Traditional societies are characterised by a belief in the legitimacy of authority that has always existed.
  – People obey their commands because it is always in accordance with custom.
  – Those exercising power do so by virtue of their inherited status.
  – Traditional societies are non-literate ones.
  – History based on oral traditions.
  – Economy is mainly agricultural
  – Traditional societies are characterised by hereditary succession, age as basis for status and roles and rigid adherence to customs.