

# Types of Societies & “Work”



**Table 1.1** Types of society and main types of work in different historical periods

<i>Type of society</i>	<i>Approximate dates</i>	<i>Main kinds of work</i>	<i>Historical period</i>
Hunting and gathering (i.e., 'Stone Age')	40,000 BP + to 10,000 BP (or 8,000 BP)	Hunting and gathering	Pre-modern period
Horticultural	10,000 BP to 5,000 BP (or 3,000 BP)	Gardening	
Agrarian	5,000 BP to late 18th century	Farming	
Industrial capitalist	19th and 20th centuries	Manufacturing	Early modern period
Post-industrial/ Informational/Global capitalism	Late 20th century and early 21st century	Services (and information processing)	Late modern period

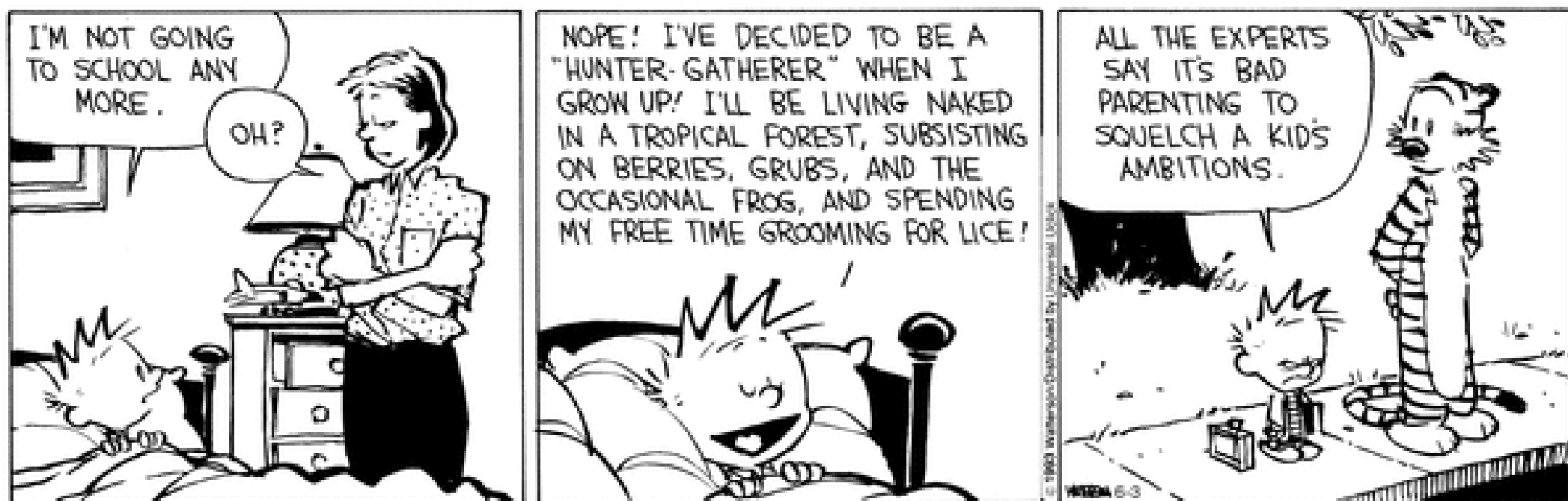
Note: BP: Before the present.

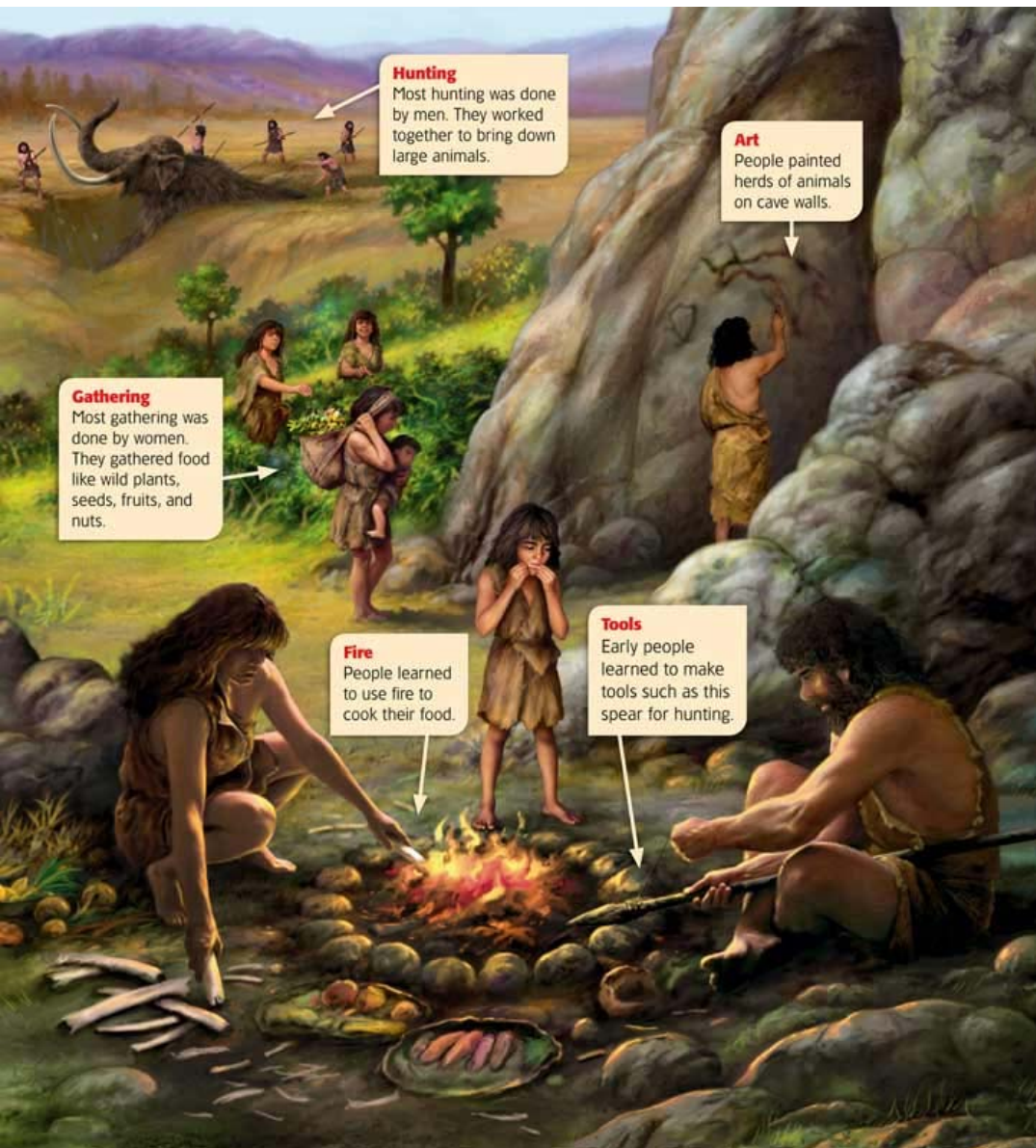
Source: Pre-modern and early modern based on Nolan and Lenski (1999).

# Hunting and Gathering Society

**a society that survives by hunting animals & gathering edible plants**

- nomadic, few material goods
- economics based on cooperation (members share possessions)
- with few possessions there is no social class (no rich or poor)





Greater recognition would go to the best hunters.





# Tanzania's Hadza people





# Hunting sets us apart from primates



## **Hunting-**

Forces communal  
interaction  
Systems of behavior  
develop

## **Foraging-**

Isolated  
Little social sharing

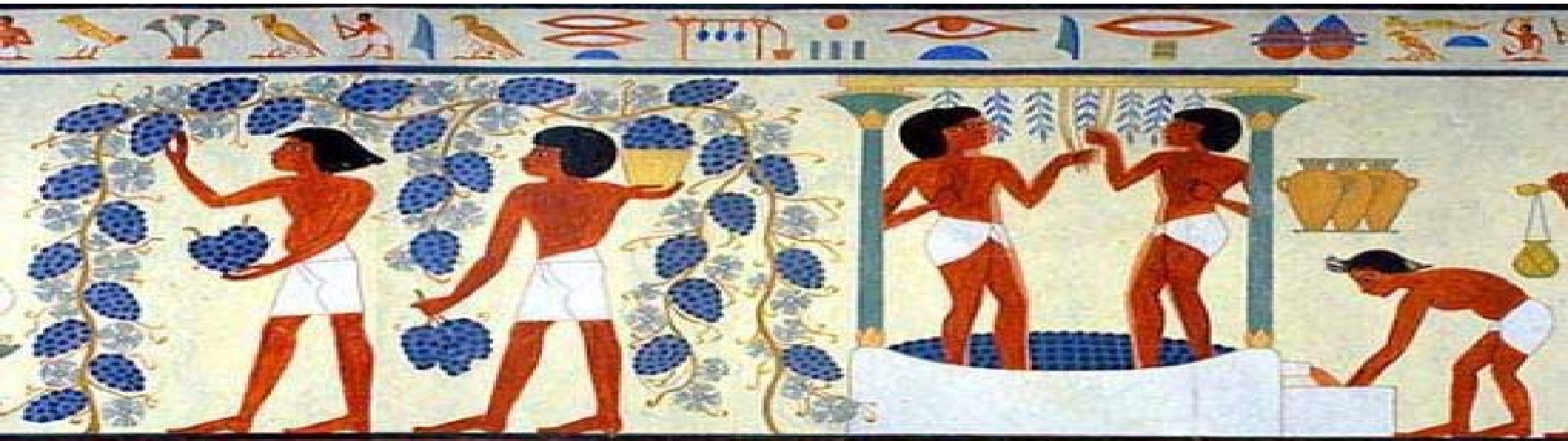
Any problems with  
this analysis?



# Horticultural Society

**a society that survives primarily through the growing of plants**

- Small scale farming makes more efficient use of land
- led to more permanent settlements
- stability and growth allows larger populations





# Horticultural

- Permitted the growth of early community-based societies
- Sedentary life allows more accumulation
- Land and possessions must be defended = conflict
- Is human violence an effect of nature (biological-hunting) or nurture (learned from society)?





# Pastoral Society

- a society in which food is obtained primarily by raising and taking care of animals
- cattle, goats, sheep, etc. (raised for meat and milk)
- since grain is needed to feed animals, some small farming emerges
- still some migration, but more long-term communities

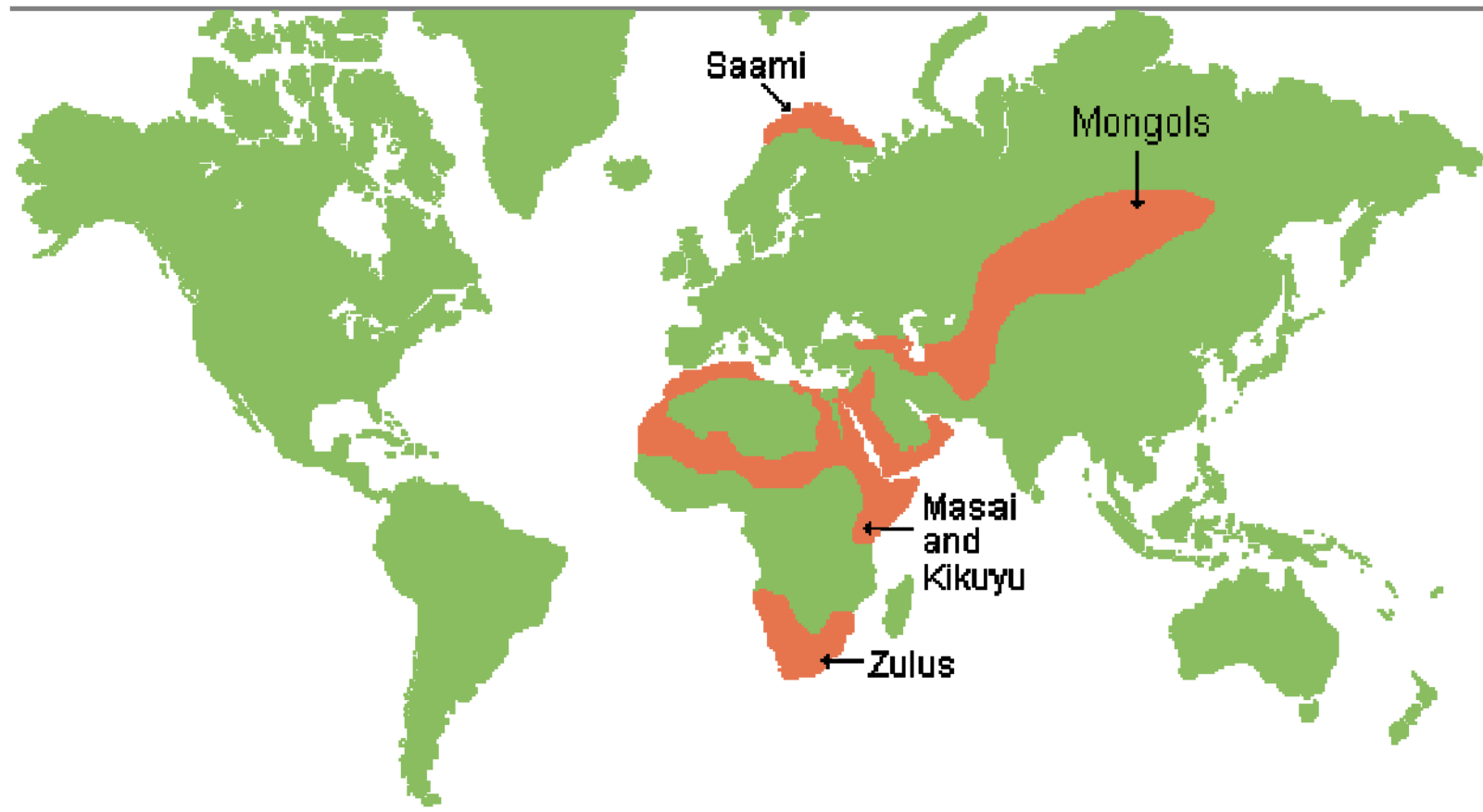




- Surplus of food allows division of labor (pottery makers, tool makers, etc.)
- Surplus allows development of social inequity (class system)
- The more animals you have, the more prestige/status/wealth



# Pastoralism Today





# Agricultural Society

- **A society that uses plows and draft animals in growing food**
- Plow allowed for more productivity = more food
- More area can be cultivated by fewer people



# Agricultural

- Society no longer organized based on kinship (family)
- Cities are built and occupations not related to farming emerge
- People free to engage in other things (education, music, politics, etc.)
- Wealth and power more prominent = increasing class system

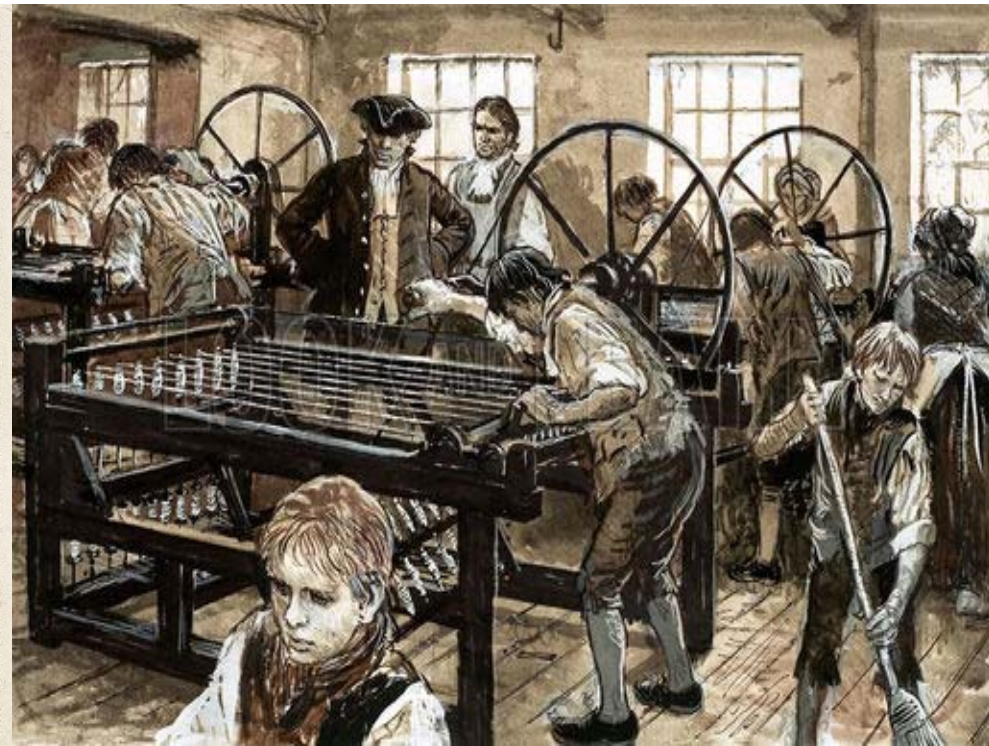




# Industrial Society

**a society that depends on science and technology to produce its basic goods and services**

Industrial Revolution – mid 1700s to 1800s





What happens when agricultural societies become industrial societies?

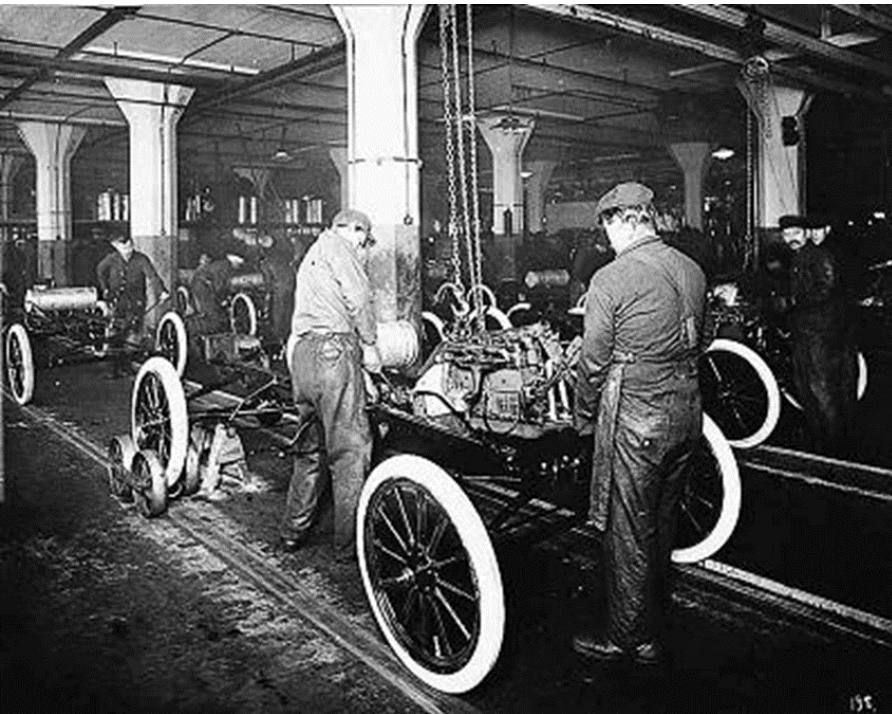


**mechanization:** replacing animal and human power with machine power



**urbanization:** the shifting of population from farms and villages to large cities

- Requires very large, mobile, diversely specialized, highly-skilled and well-organized labor force
- Education system that is open to all is necessary
- Centralized State required
- At least two classes develop: labor force & elites



Some of the cars and trucks that moved from Detroit to the seaboard in a steady stream



**Table 1.2** Work in pre-industrial society compared with work in industrial capitalist societies

<i>Key features</i>	<i>Work in pre-industrial society</i>	<i>Work in industrial capitalist society</i>
1 Production system	Hand tools/water/human/ animal energy	Machine tools/inanimate energy (coal, gas, oil, etc.)
2 Unit of production	Family/household	Individual adults/large-scale organizations
3 Division of labour	Rudimentary/low degree of differentiation	Complex/high degree of differentiation
4 Time	Irregular/seasonal	Regular/permanent
5 Education and recruitment	Minimal/generalized Particularistic/family	Extensive/specialized Universalistic/individual adults
6 Economic system	Traditional/non-market	Rational/market
7 Meaning of work	Necessary evil	Work as a virtue
8 Purpose of work	Livelihood/subsistence/short- term profit	Maximum reward/income/long- term profit
9 Payment	In kind/cash	Wages/salaries/profits
10 Embeddedness of work	Embedded in non-economic institutions	Separate from other institutions



# Postindustrial Society

a society in which the economic emphasis is on providing services  
& information

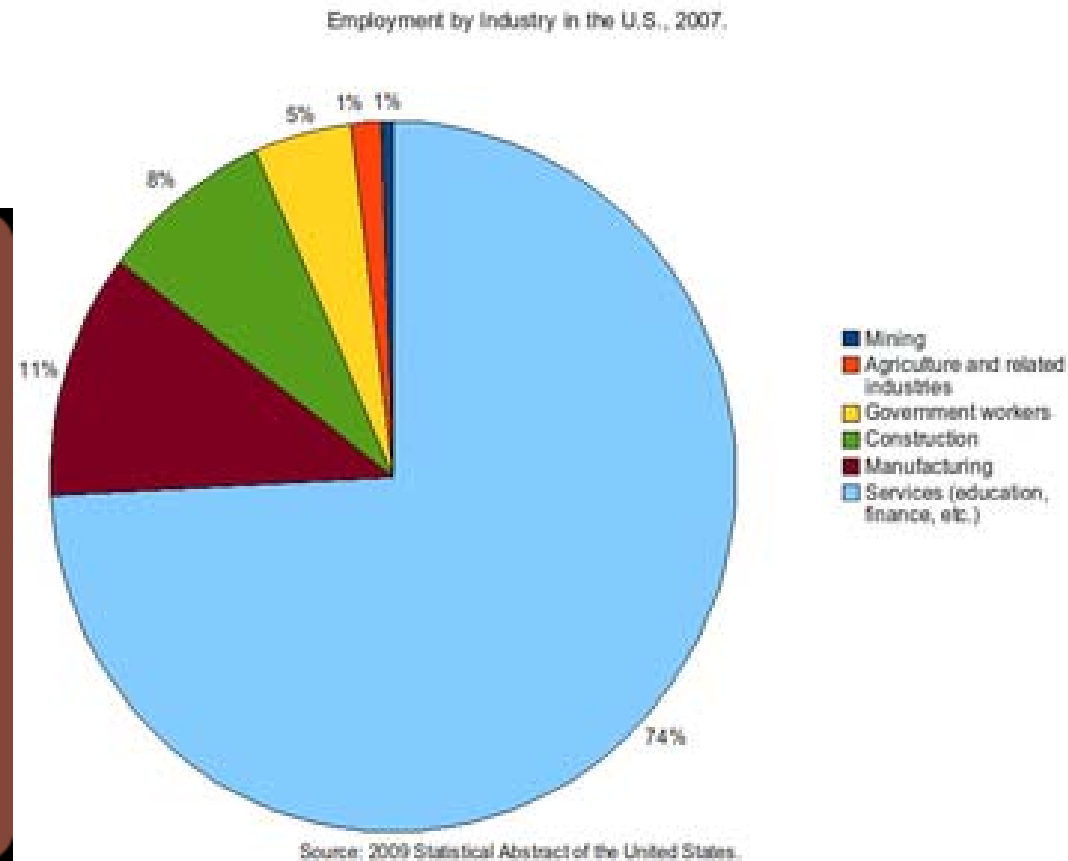
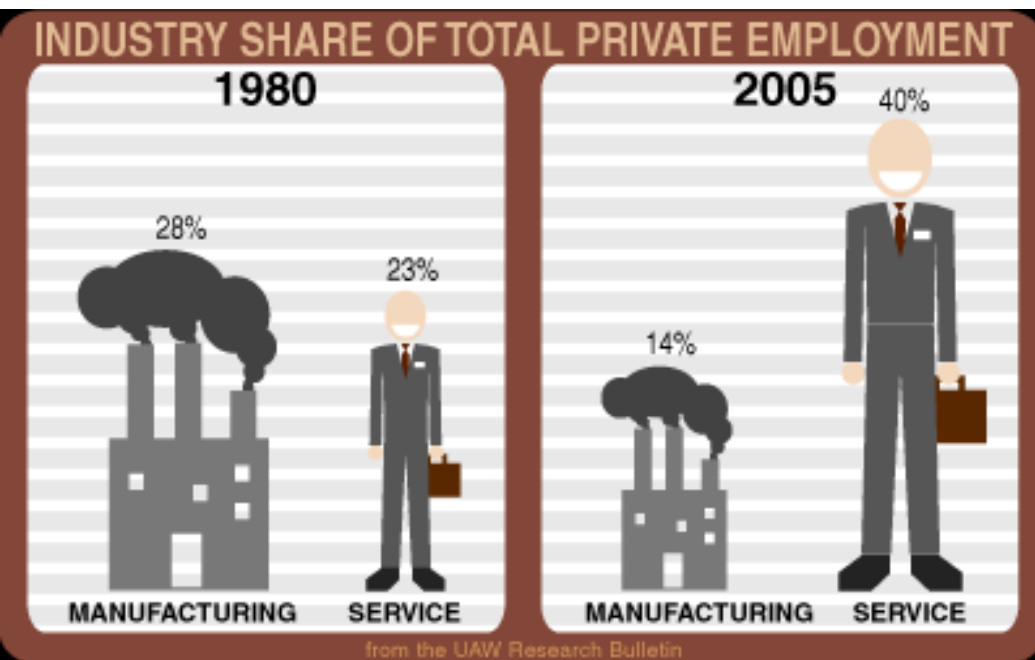


# Five major features of postindustrial societies

## **According to David Bell:**

- 1. For the first time, the majority of the labor force is employed in services rather than in agriculture or manufacturing**
- 2. White collar employment replaces much blue collar work.**
- 3. Technical knowledge is the key organizing feature of postindustrial societies.**
- 4. Technological change is planned and assessed.**
- 5. Reliance on computer modeling in all areas.**

# Division of Labor in US Today.





The United States has now shipped a great number of its manufacturing jobs overseas to other countries as we have worked to

Does anyone see an issue with switching from a industry/manufacturing based society to an informational society?



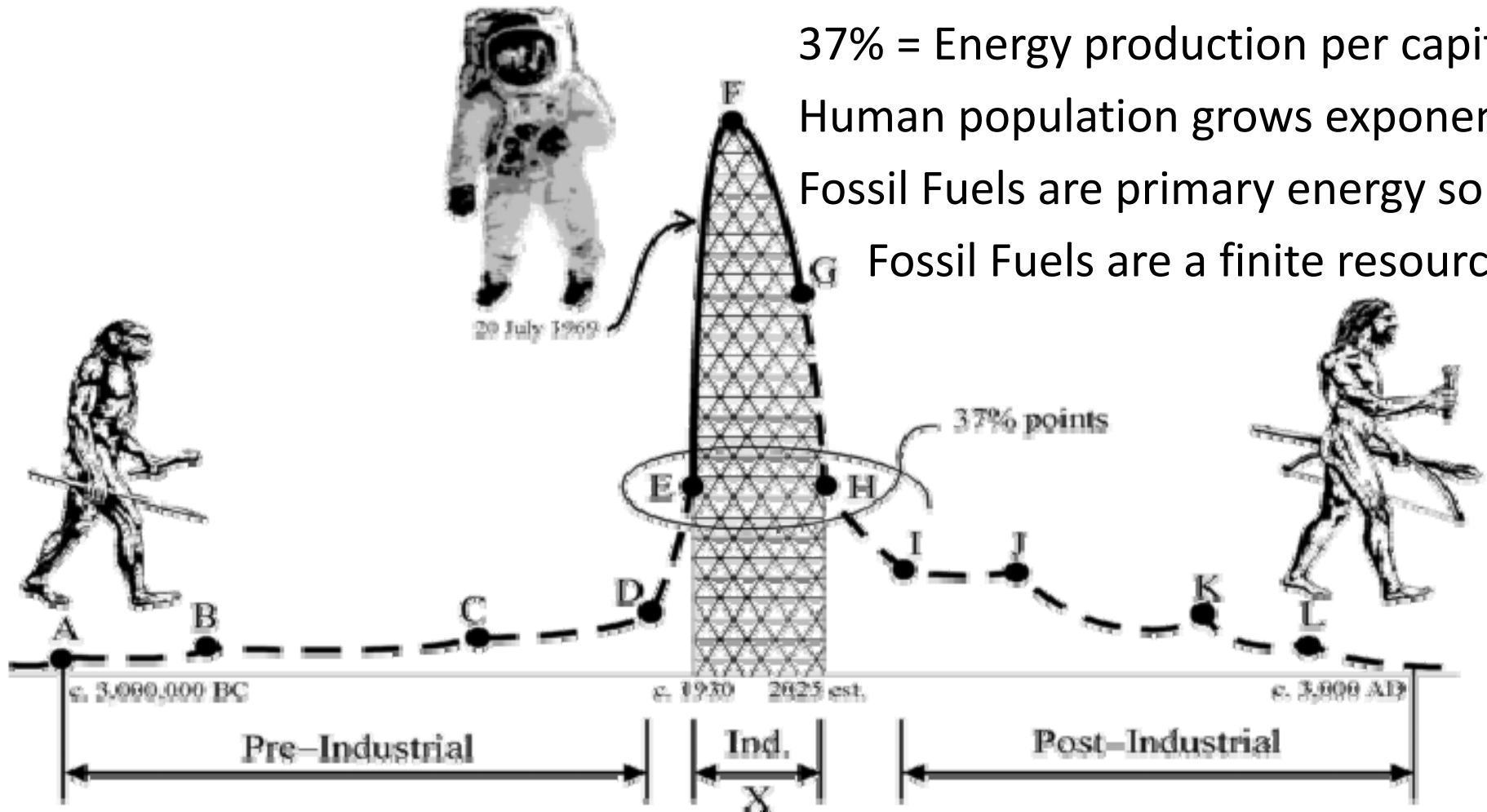
# Olduvai Theory of Industrial Civilization

37% = Energy production per capita

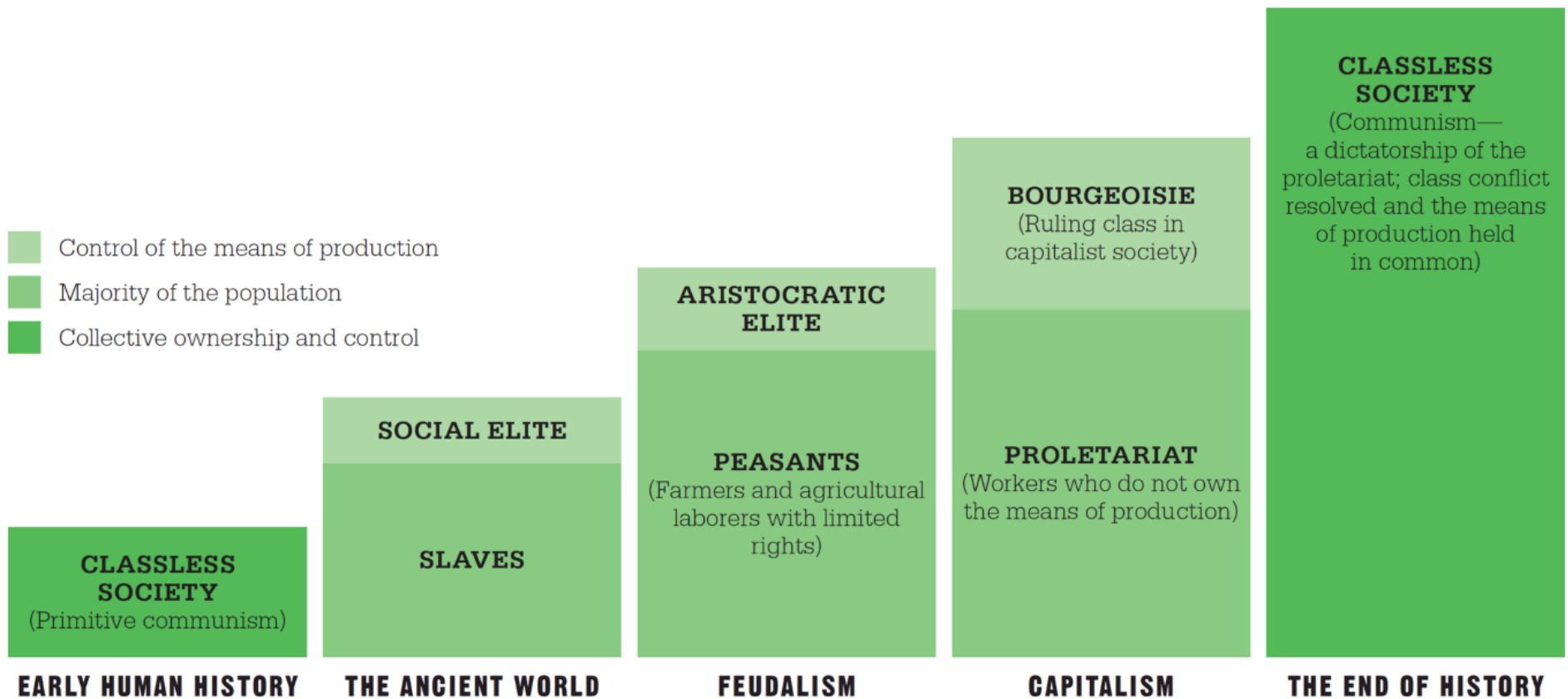
# Human population grows exponentially

## Fossil Fuels are primary energy source

## Fossil Fuels are a finite resource







**Five historical epochs** were identified by Marx. Each corresponds to an era in which people were clearly defined by their labor. According to Marx, the determining force of history is the dominant mode of production, which shapes the classes in society. The epochs progress from early human history, when people held things in common, to capitalism in Marx's day, with its two great social classes. In the future lies the classless society of communism.

# Exit Slip

Consider the Olduvai Theory of Industrial Civilization, do you think that society is naturally going to revert back to a classless state?

