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Anthropology short notes

Emergence, growth and development of Anthropology in India

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology Paper 2 · Anthropology GS 2 (Paper II)

4. Emergence, growth and development of Anthropology in India-Contributions of the 18th, 19th and early 20th Century scholar-administrators. Contributions of Indian anthropologists to tribal and caste studies.

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

Revision notes for the Anthropology optional. Confirm thinkers and examples against standard texts and recent papers.

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4. Emergence

Definition

Hence, Anthropology literally means "Study of Human Beings."

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

Definition

Word "Casta" → Portuguese → means race/lineage.

Example / case study

over-consumption of resources → karma teaches restraint.

Definition

Hence, Anthropology literally means "Study of Human Beings."

Example / case study

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Thinkers

E.A. Hoebel: "Anthropology is the study of man and his works."

Definition

It examines humans as biological organisms.

Thinkers

Radcliffe-Brown: Used genealogies to reconstruct descent groups and social structure in Africa. Malinowski: Used them to understand kinship and land inheritance among the Trobriand Islanders. Claude Lévi-Strauss: Used genealogical/kinship data to develop Alliance Theory, focusing on marriage and exchange between lineages. India: S.C. Roy documented Oraon genealogies; Irawati Karve used genealogical mapping to study village kinship and exogamy in Maharashtra. Cultural Materialism: Marvin Harris argued that the primary driver of culture is the material constraints of existence, organized into a hierarchy of Infrastructure, Structure, and Superstructure.

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