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Q5(d)

Authority and forms of political organization

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 10 marks · Political Organization and Social Control

4. Political Organization and Social Control: Band, tribe, chiefdom, kingdom and state; concepts of power, authority and legitimacy; social control, law and justice in simple Societies.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Evans-Pritchard's Nuer

A classic segmentary lineage system in which balanced opposition and mediation provide order without central government.

Elman Service

Popularised the band-tribe-chiefdom-state typology; useful comparatively but criticised as overly evolutionary.

Leopard-skin chief

A Nuer ritual mediator with limited coercive authority, showing that office need not equal government.

Richard Lee

His Ju/'hoansi work documented levelling practices that restrain domination by successful hunters.

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