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Q3(b)

Critically examine the drawbacks in assuming culture as an 'integrated-closed system in understanding of contemporary society

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 1 · 15 marks · The Nature of Society

2.2 The Nature of Society: Concept of Society; Society and Culture; Social Institution; Social groups; and Social stratification.

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.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2025/critically-examine-the-drawbacks-in-assuming-culture-as-an-integrated-closed-system-in-understanding-of-contemporary-society/>

Ruth Benedict

Configuralism treated cultures as more-or-less integrated patterns of personality and custom, as in Patterns of Culture.

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown

Structural-functional equilibrium of a social system. Synchronic analysis can freeze conflict and history.

Eric Wolf

He criticised the isolate community and argued that local cultures are historically produced inside wider political-economic fields.

Fredrik Barth

Ethnic groups persist through boundary organisation, not because culture is a homogeneous interior.

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