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Anthropology short notes

Economic Organization

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology GS 1 · Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)

3. Economic Organization: Meaning, scope and relevance of economic anthropology; Formalist and Substantivist debate; Principles governing production, distribution and exchange (reciprocity, redistribution and market), in communities, subsisting on hunting and gathering, fishing, swiddening, pastoralism, horticulture, and agriculture; globalization and indigenous economic systems.

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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3. Economic Organization

Definition

Anthropology studies humans as an integrated whole.

Meaning

Definition

Use field studies and empirical data.

Example / case study

Islamic banking → interest-free system based on moral-religious principles

Thinkers

S.C. Roy: used Horoko (true human) for tribe. Ernest Gellner - four steps of national identity: shared formal education; cultural homogenisation; language standardisation; anonymity among members that produces a feeling of sameness. Christophe Jaffrelot - two-step rise of Hindu nationalism: stigmatise an 'other' as a common enemy; then unify Hindus across caste, class and region. E.A. Hoebel - Anthropology is the study of man and his works. A.R. Radcliffe-Brown - structural-functionalism: institutions function like organs to maintain social structure.

Scope

Definition

Cultural Anthropology is the study of learned behaviour, beliefs, customs, traditions, institutions, and values of different human societies.

Example / case study

Information is reconstructed almost entirely through archaeological evidence. Together they explain humans from biological, cultural, linguistic and historical perspectives. Anthropology today extends far beyond the study of tribes.

Thinkers

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

Relevance Of Economic Anthropology**Definition**

relevance of economic anthropology

Example / case study

Islamic banking → interest-free system based on moral-religious principles Economy as a by-product of human social living, not merely profit maximisation