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Q3(a)

Analyze the manifest and latent functions of 'security of the tenure of bureaucrats' in the light of Merton's theory.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 1 · 20 marks · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle; Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society; Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism; Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables; Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups; Mead - Self and identity.

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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Manifest function

Merton: intended, recognised consequence of a social practice.

Latent function

Merton: unintended, often unrecognised consequence.

Ritualism

Merton's adaptation: clinging to institutional means when goals recede.

Weberian bureaucracy

Career, files, and impersonality; tenure is a typical legal protection of that staff.

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