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Q3(c)

What, according to Merton, is the difference between 'unanticipated consequences' and 'latent functions' ? Give examples to elaborate

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 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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Merton 1936

Essay on unanticipated consequences of purposive social action.

Manifest / latent

Intended-recognized versus unintended-unrecognized functions.

Veblen

Conspicuous consumption as a classic latent-status function behind a utility story.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

Intended employment; possible latent weakening of tied labour; leakage as unanticipated harm.

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