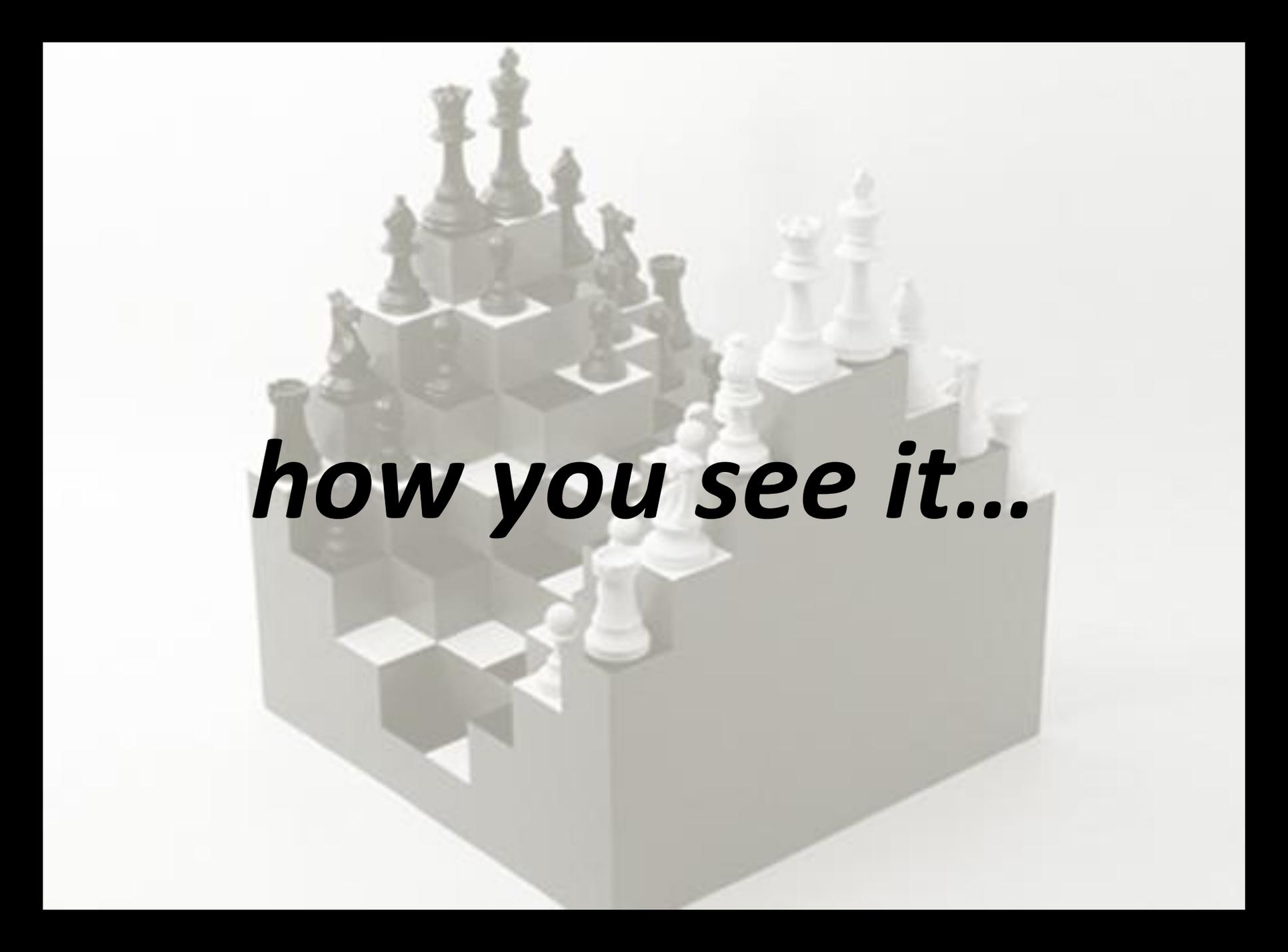




# Stratification and Inequality

Part 3

A 3D chessboard with chess pieces on a white background. The chessboard is composed of white blocks of varying heights, creating a stepped surface. Chess pieces are placed on the board, including a king, queen, rook, knight, and pawn. The pieces are also white, matching the board. The text "how you see it..." is overlaid on the image in a bold, italicized, black font.

***how you see it...***

A 3D chessboard with chess pieces, symbolizing social stratification and inequality. The chessboard is rendered in a light gray color, and the pieces are also in a light gray color. The pieces are arranged on the board, with some pieces being taller than others, representing different social classes. The text is overlaid on the chessboard.

*How do different social classes  
and groups view stratification  
and inequality?*

# INTEACTIONIST



# Founding Sociologist: Weber

- Power and bureaucracy
  - Modern societies replace traditional or charismatic authority with more legitimate rational-legal authority
  - The resulting bureaucracy can trap individuals in a system that puts efficiency and control over all else
- *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
  - Perceptions of inequality and people in other classes are tied to our values
  - Government decisions influenced by (sometimes competing) values of hard work, free enterprise, opportunity, prosperity, competition

# Modern Social Psychology

- Socialization and Self
  - Behavior is most heavily influenced by the social class into which we were born and raised
  - Self-esteem is influenced by how others see us, so we tend to believe that we deserve our position in society
  - Self-fulfilling prophecy: we tend to internalize and live up or down to others' expectations, which can encourage or discourage social mobility
- Social Structure and Interaction
  - Social classes, minority groups share common identity and outlook
  - Power imbalance between groups can lead to conformity, coercion, conflict

# FUNCTIONALIST



# Founding Sociologist: Durkheim

- *The Division of Labour in Society*
  - Mechanical solidarity: traditional societies tied together by common goal of meeting basic needs
  - Organic solidarity: complex, diverse societies tied together by the interdependence of division of labor and specialization
    - Inequality comes from natural hierarchy, based on merit and value to society, with some regulation to prevent conflict/chaos
    - Individuals who lack strong ties to and internalization of the social order can suffer from anomie, leading to outcomes like suicide or deviance

# Modern Functionalism

- When inequality is dysfunctional
  - Reform will result from the evolution of the collective consciousness (beliefs, values, norms)
  - In a democracy, the best ideas for reform win out in the “marketplace of ideas” and competition between parties/interest groups
- The role of social institutions
  - More women in the workforce > greater power/voice in society and family
  - Government redistribution of wealth > disruptions in the market economy
  - Cooperation of schools and religious organizations > provide community safety net for families

**CONFLICT**



# Founding Sociologist: Marx

- Iron law of oligarchy: power becomes more and more concentrated over time, even in democracies the elite control the resources and decision-making process
- False consciousness: when workers accept ideas/values of the capitalists – schools and religions teach wealth is the result of effort and ability
- *Communist Manifesto*
  - Capitalism: inequality will result in socialist revolution where government redistributes wealth
  - Communism: history will end the way it began, in communal societies that share all resources collectively with no need for government

# Modern Conflict Theory

- Uneven playing field
  - Education: achievement gap, digital divide, cost of daycare and college, public school funding
  - Government: interest groups, election contributions, connections, district lines
  - Economic: upward spiral of investments and property, downward spiral of low pay and debt
  - Family: instability, nutrition , preventative and mental health care
- Welfare for the Poor v. Non-poor
  - Stigma: deserving or not
  - Direct relief (food stamps, welfare, etc.) vs. “trickle down” economics (tax exemptions, incentives)
- *“Myth” of social mobility?*

A 3D chessboard with chess pieces on a white background. The chessboard is rendered in a light gray color, and the pieces are in various shades of gray and white. The pieces are arranged on the board, with some pieces like the king and queen visible in the background. The chessboard is shown from a perspective that makes it look like a 3D object.

*Which perspective on stratification and inequality makes the most sense to you?*

*How does your position in society influence your perspective?*