

Journal 4/11 (B Day 4/12)

Does American society primarily use a caste system or a class system?

What is more important in the United States, ascribed or achieved status?

Explain and use examples

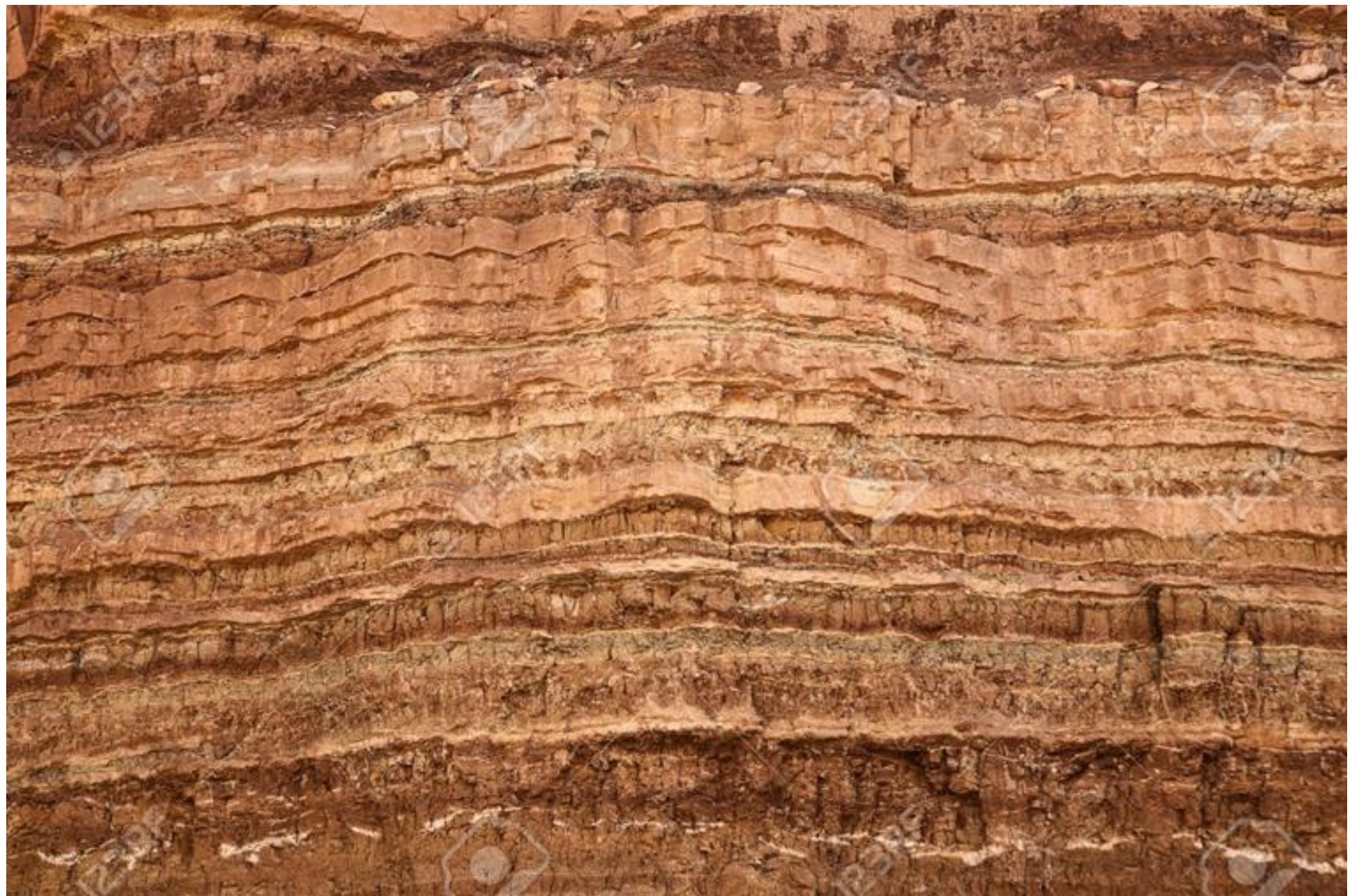
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Unit 6: Social Inequalities

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Systems of Stratification

- Almost every society throughout history has separated its members on the basis of certain characteristics
- Social Stratification – the division of society into categories, ranks, or classes
 - Wealth, ancestry, race, age, physical appearance, and gender
- Social stratification depends on status

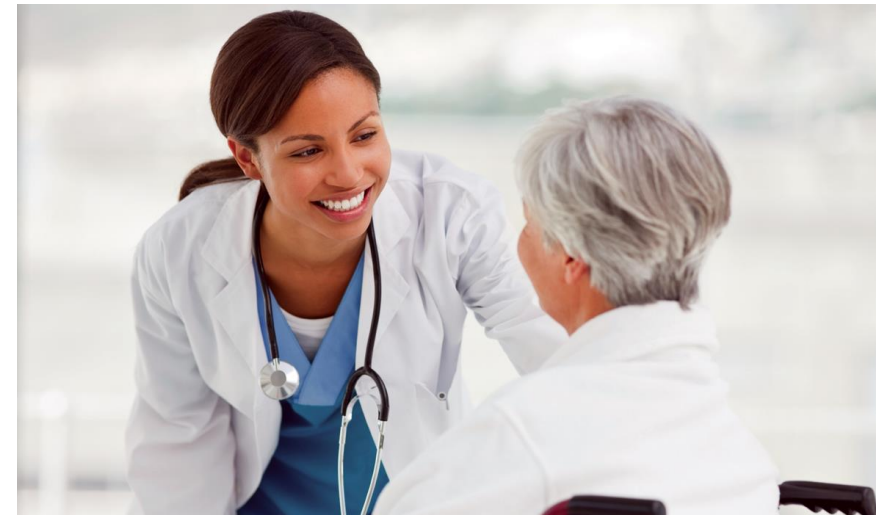






Status

- Achieved Status - acquired on the basis of merit; it is a position that is earned or chosen and reflects a person's skills, abilities, and efforts



Status

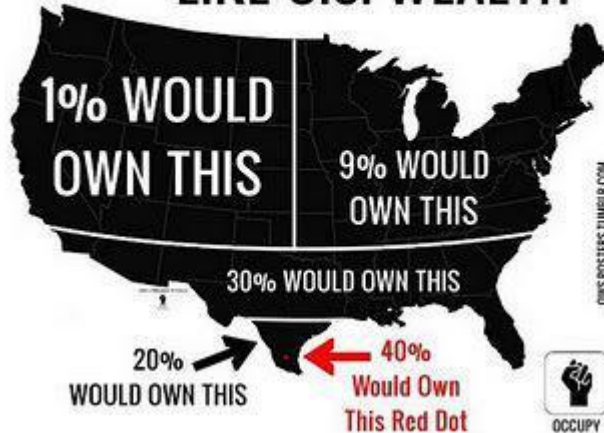
- Ascribed Status – assigned at birth or involuntarily later in life



Social Inequality

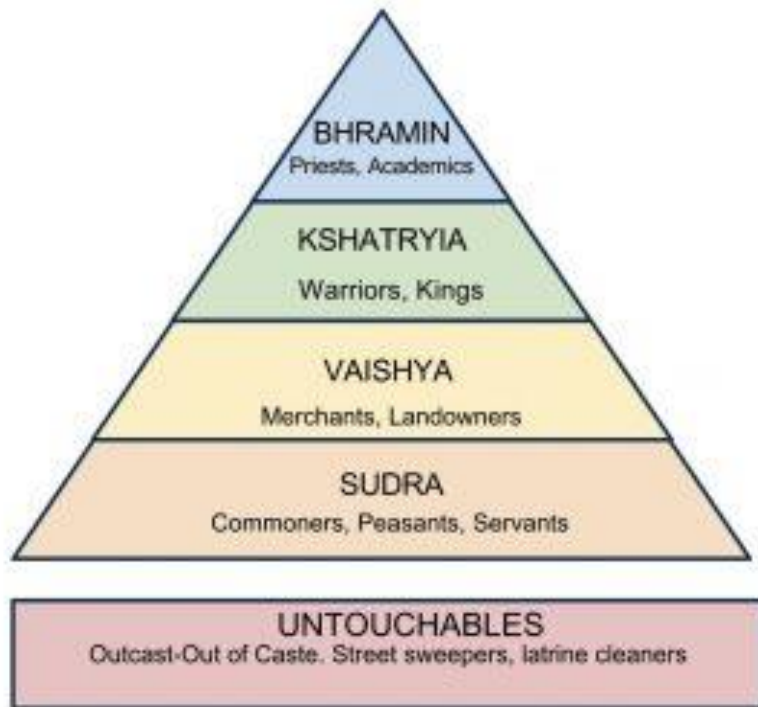
- Divisions based on individual characteristics and abilities lead to social inequality
- Social inequality – the unequal sharing of scarce resources and social rewards

IF U.S. LAND WERE DIVIDED
LIKE U.S. WEALTH



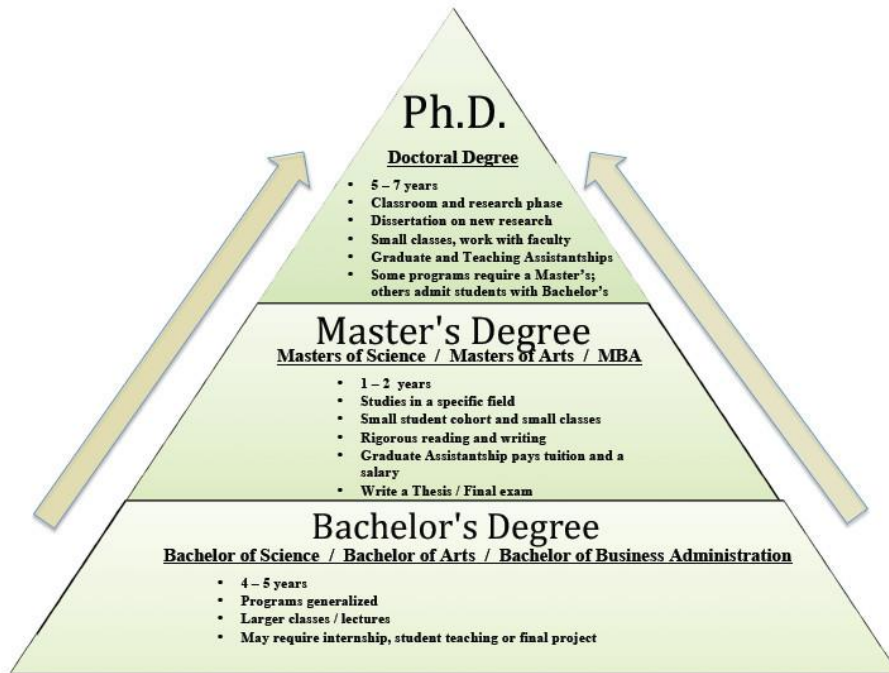
Caste Systems

- Caste System – resources and social rewards are distributed on the basis of ascribed statuses



Class Systems

- Class System - resources and social rewards are distributed on the basis of achieved statuses



EMPLOYEE MIDDLE INCOME AGE: 30 YEARS OLD ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: Php 480,000.00	EXECUTIVE HIGH INCOME AGE: 45 YEARS OLD ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: Php 2,770,000.00	BUSINESS MAN HIGH INCOME AGE: 60 YEARS OLD ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME: Php 5,540,000.00
TARGET NET WORTH Php 1,440,000.00 (AAW) Php 2,880,000.00 (PAW)	TARGET NET WORTH Php 12,465,000.00 (AAW) Php 24,930,000.00 (PAW)	TARGET NET WORTH Php 33,240,000.00 (AAW) Php 66,480,000.00 (PAW)
NET WORTH OF WEALTHY 30 YEAR OLD Php 16,620,000.00	NET WORTH OF WEALTHY 45 YEAR OLD Php 24,930,000.00	NET WORTH OF WEALTHY 60 YEAR OLD Php 33,240,000.00
<small>* INCOME BRACKET BASED ON NSCB RESEARCH * TARGET NET WORTH FOR AVERAGE ACCUMULATOR OF WEALTH (AAW) EQUATION BASED ON MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR (AGE X ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME) / 10 * PRODIGIOUS ACCUMULATOR OF WEALTH (PAW) EQUATION BASED ON MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR (AGE X ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME X 2) / 10</small>		

The Dimensions of Social Stratification

- Social Class – grouping people with similar levels of wealth, power, and prestige



Wealth

- An individual's wealth is made up of his or her assets and income
- Assets – the value of everything the person owns
 - Property, cars, stocks, debt
- Income – money earned through salaries and investment returns

WEALTH
INEQUALITY
IN
AMERICA

"THE WEALTHY"

ACTUAL
Distribution of
Wealth in the U.S.

15.1%

POVERTY LINE

7%

"THE RICH"

"THE POOR"

IDEAL

THINK

"THE MIDDLE CLASS"

"THE
1%"

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Shares of Household Income and Net Worth by Quintiles in the United States in 2014

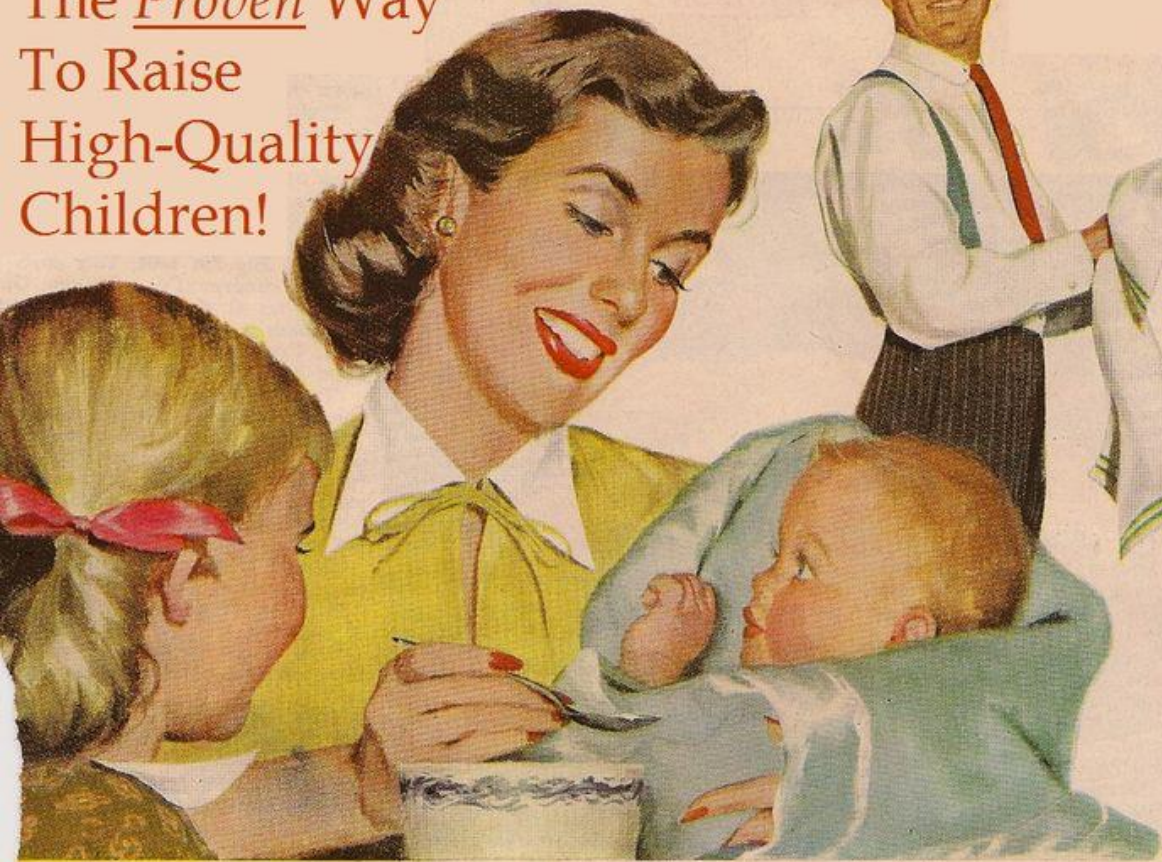
	Income	Wealth
Lowest fifth	3.1%	\$-6,029
Second fifth	8.2%	\$7,263
Third fifth	14.3%	\$68,839
Fourth fifth	23.2%	\$205,985
Highest fifth	51.2%	\$630,754

Power

- Power is the ability to control the behavior of others, with or without their consent
- Power can be based on force, the possession of a special skill or type of knowledge, a particular social status, personal characteristics, or custom and tradition

PATRIARCHY!

The *Proven* Way
To Raise
High-Quality
Children!







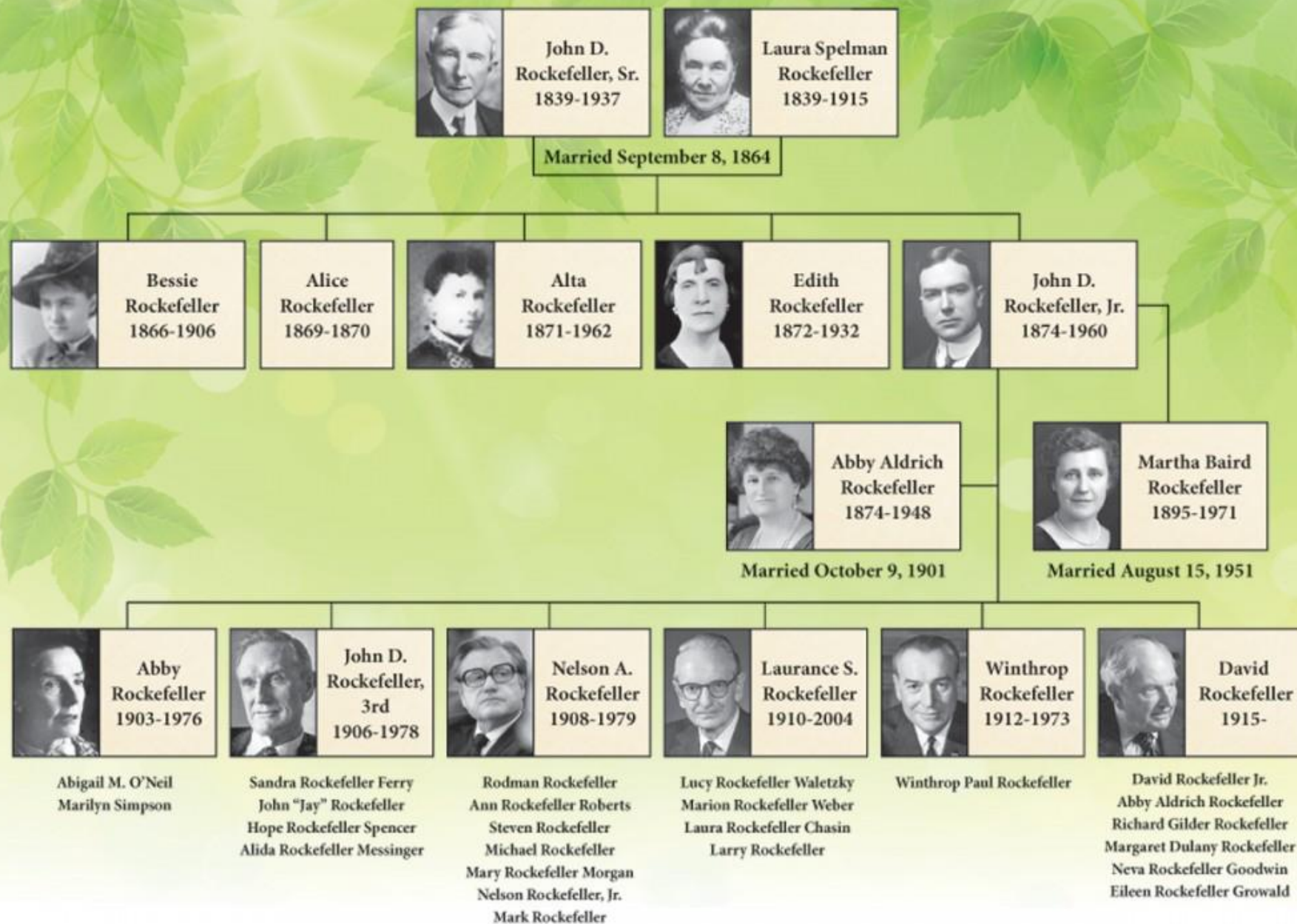
Prestige

- Prestige is the respect, honor, recognition, or courtesy and individual receives from others
- Prestige can be based on any characteristic a society considers important
 - Occupation, education, family, where you live, etc.



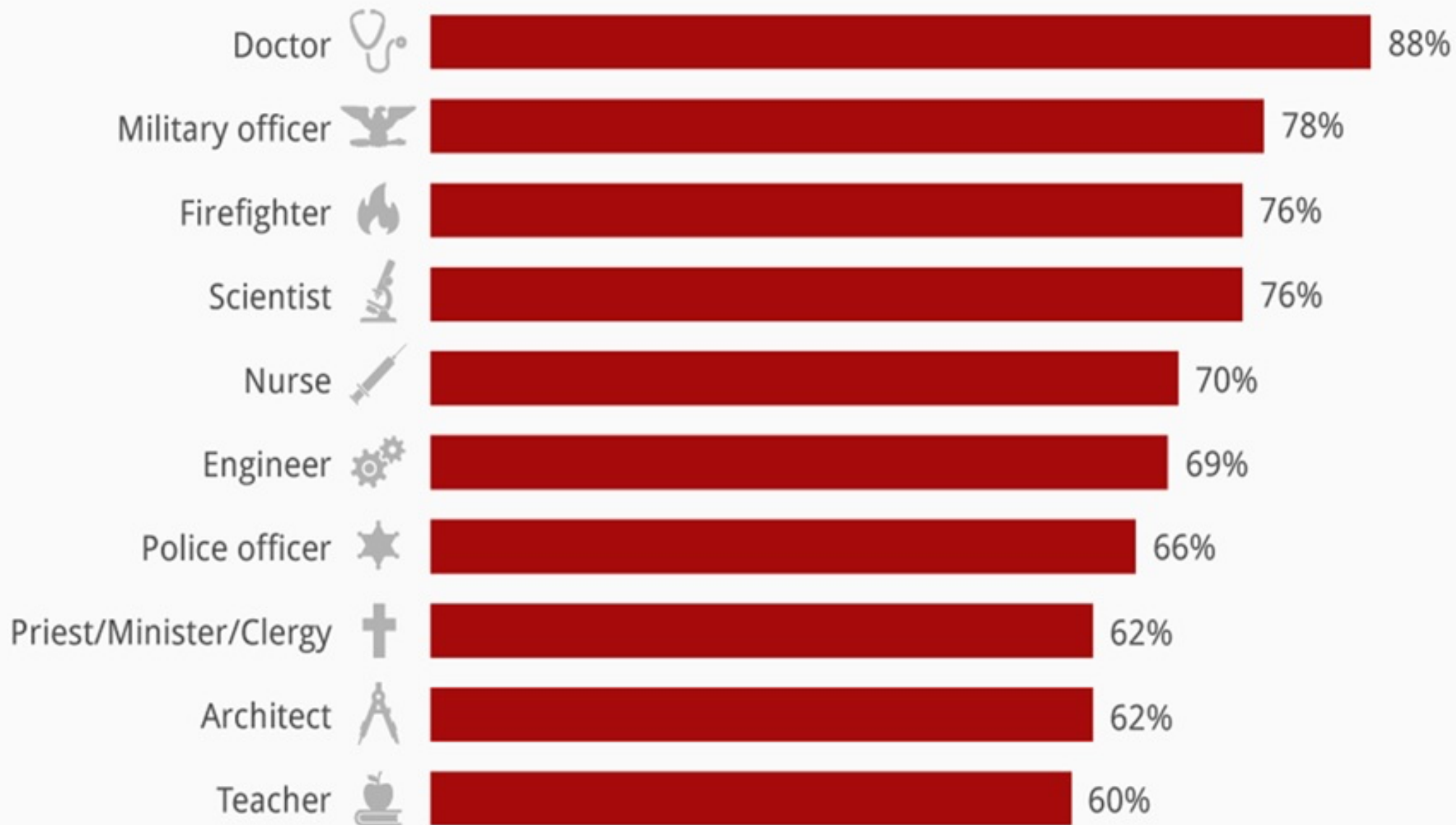


A long, proud, Rockefeller family history



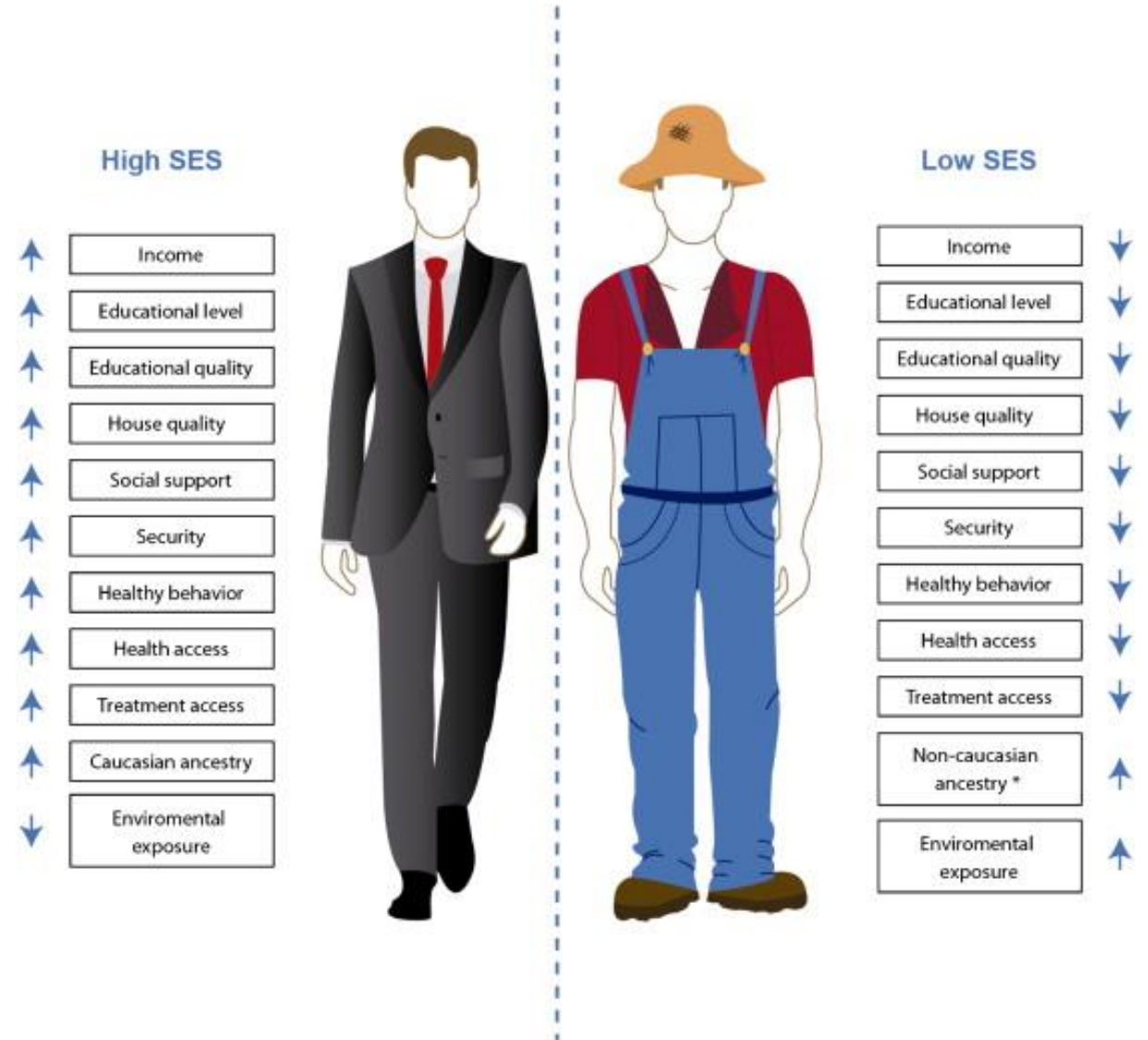
America's Most Prestigious Professions

% of people finding the following occupations prestigious



Socioeconomic Status

- To rank people by wealth, power, and prestige, sociologists often calculate people's socioeconomic status (SES)
- Socioeconomic Status combines social factors such as educational level, occupational prestige, and place of residence with the economic factor of income.



Explaining Stratification: Functionalist Theory

- Functionalists view stratification as a necessary feature of the social structure
- Certain roles must be performed
- Without varying rewards, many jobs would not be filled and society could not function

Explaining Stratification: Functionalist Theory

Criticism

- Fails to consider that not everyone in society has equal access to resources
- Assumes that positions that offer higher rewards are more important

Explaining Stratification: Conflict Theory

- Conflict theorists see competition over scarce resources as the cause of social inequality
- Based on Marxist theory
 - Stratification comes from class exploitation
 - The owners of the means of production control the working class in order to profit and maintain their power

Explaining Stratification: Conflict Theory

Criticism

- Fails to recognize that unequal rewards can be based on differences in talent, skill, and desire
- Not everyone is suited for every position