



FULBRIGHT
UNIVERSITY
VIETNAM

FULBRIGHT SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

SESSION 3
Modernization



Session 3

- Concept of Modernity & Modernization
- Tradition vs. Modern
- Benefit of Modernization Theory
- Criticism
- Social and Political Modernization

Meaning of Modernization to Vietnam?





VN's Modernization Track

- Theory – a. import substitution (protection), b. catch-up economy (competitive sector), c. leading fundamental science and technology sector.
- With limited funds and resources – Vietnam have paid attention to a and b options.
- Little development in human development, science and technology, knowledge-initiative.
- Emulating East Asia & China



What is modernity?
What are key features of modernity?
What are features of pre-modern society?

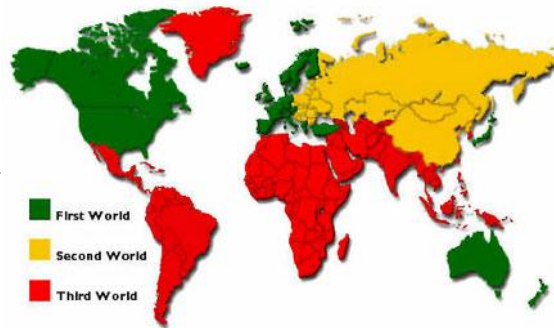
Something scientific?
Something cool like iPhone?

Attention to “modernity”



Historical Context

1950s Cold war
U.S. superpower
Marshall Plan
Attention to
Unequal development



Stop the spread of communism

Create a buffer
Against
Communism
Rise of
Third Words

Developing Countries



Modern countries



Then what is modernity?



M. Condorcet



E. Durkheim



I. Newton

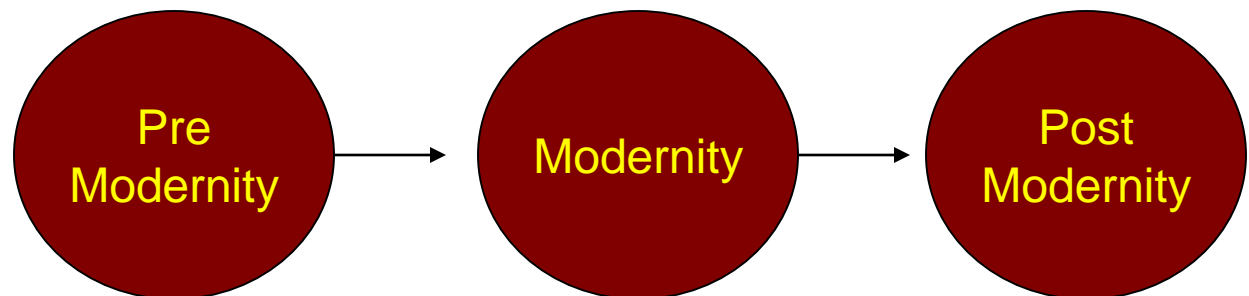


C. Darwin



T. Parsons

How do you define modern society?



How do you define pre-modern society?



Defining Pre-Modern Society

***From what
Perspective?
Criteria?***



What is an image of pre-modern society for you?

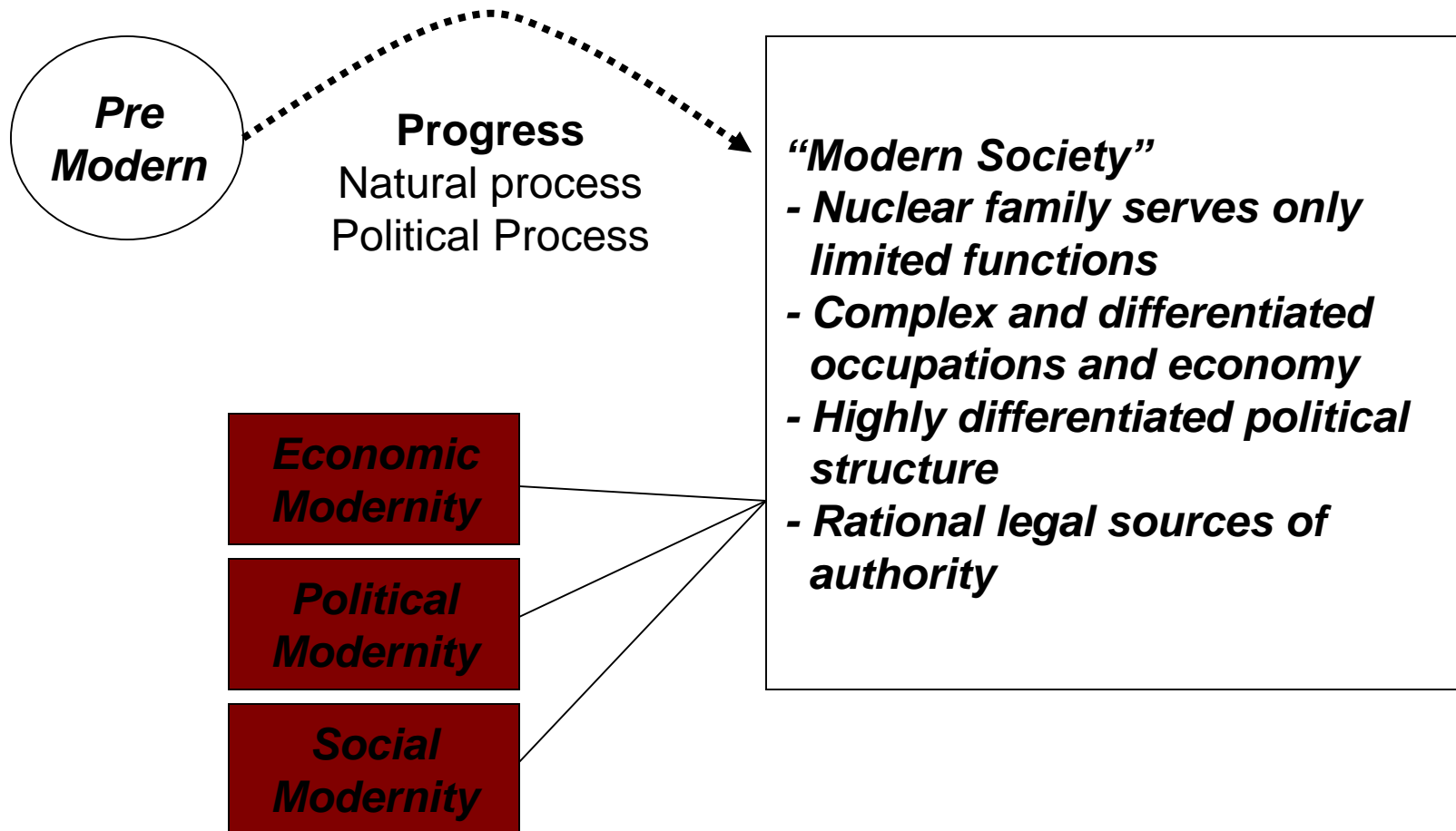
Politically

Economically

Socially

***Reliance on kinship structure
Little social /spatial mobility
Basic economic activity (Agri-)
A traditional elite and hierarchical
Organizations
Power held by Landowners***

“Modern” Society





Tradition vs. Modernity

Dominant Characteristics	Tradition	Modernity
Technology	Animate Power Agriculture Mechanistic	Non-animal power Industry Organic (complex)
Outcomes	Rural Low life expectancy	Urban High life expectancy
Attitudes	Gemeinschaft “established belief in The sanctity of immemorial traditions”	Gesellschaft “rational authority, belief in the legality of patterns of normative rules”
Division of labor Legal Standard Identity	Diffuse roles Particularistic values Collective	Specific roles Universalistic Self orientation



Parsons-cultural factors

- Traditional values block a country from developing e.g. valuing the extended family, blocks geographical mobility

Traditional values

- Ascription
- Particularism
- Collectivism

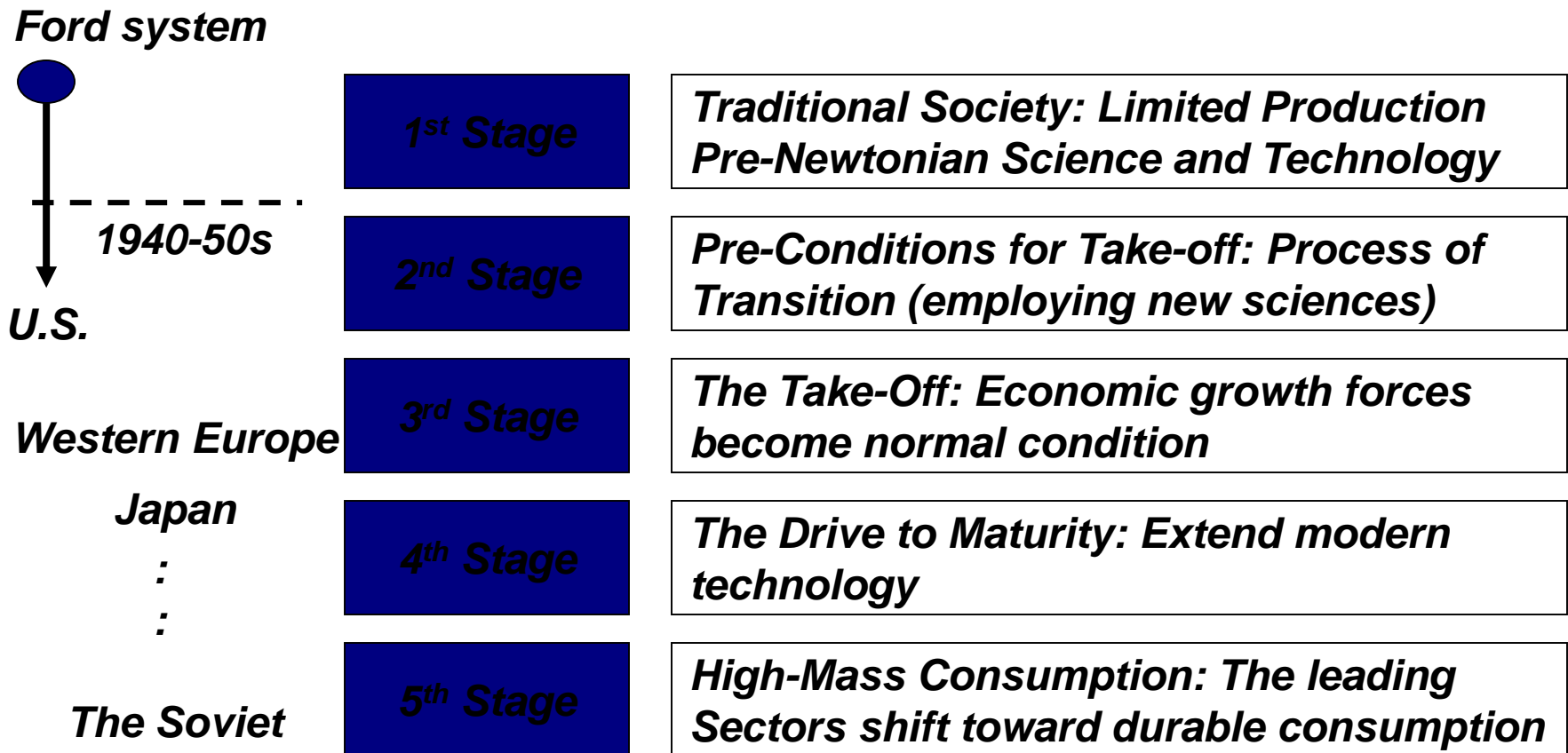
Modern values

Achievement
Universalism
Individualism

Economic Modernization



- W. W. Rostow (1960) *The Stages of Economic Growth*



Rostow's assumption

“Modernization is.....”



- Composed of stages shared by “all” countries
- A homogenizing process
- Modern societies replicates European/North American values and worldviews
- An irreversible process
- Progressive, not revolutionary
- A transformative Process

Social Side?

Social Mobilization



Karl Deutsch

- Deutsch (1961) “social mobilization” – the process in which major clusters of old social, economic, and psychological commitments are eroded

*Through exposure to modernity
Mass Media, Voting, **Urbanization**,
Non-agricultural employment,
Literacy, Per capita income*



- People become available for new patterns of socialization and behavior

“Modernization = Westernization”



Modernization simply takes traits associated with Western countries and generalizes them as “nature of Modernity”

Advantage

*Desirable Western Model
(Market capitalism)
Alternative form to traditional
Model/Elite Groups*



Modernisation theory – role of the West in developing countries



- **Western investment in factories, expertise and equipment – use loans from World Bank (Trickle down)**
- **Western funding to introduce meritocratic education (values of universalism, individualism and competition)**



Modernisation theory – the West and the developing countries (continued)

- Mass media to disseminate modern ideas (e.g. nuclear families)
- Urbanization to be encouraged



Criticism of modernisation theory



1. It is **ethnocentric** because
 - (a) it devalues traditional values and social institutions e.g. extended families
 - (b) it ignores increasing inequality within and between countries
 - (c) it is not a neutral theory as it suggests (it promotes western capitalist values)



- 2 Education in developing world mainly benefits small, local elites (those at the top)
- 3 It assumes unlimited natural resources for industrial expansion. (ignores ecological issues)



- 4 There is no, one single way to advancement and historical context is also important - case study (Asian Development Bank).
- 5 The cultures of developing countries. E.g the importance of the family, may be a **response** to economic insecurity and low levels of material well-being not the cause of it.





Discussion

- In your view, among various aspects of modernity and modernization process, what is the most critical fact that Vietnam falls behind in?
- What would be the limits of emulating the model of predecessors in East Asia?



Q&A



CONTACT

Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management

232/6 Vo Thi Sau, District 3, HCMC

T: (028) 3932 5103

F: (08) 3932 5104

E-mail: info.fsppm@fuv.edu.vn

Web: www.fsppm.fuv.edu.vn/