Podcast 11- Sociological Analysis of Four Alien Planets-
Social Institutions, Social Stratification, and Social Problems

Learning Outcome for Podcast 11:
Students will be able to:

  Identify and describe three sociological characteristics of alien planets: Social Institutions, Social Stratification, and Social Problems.

A more in-depth analysis of these planets is found in the course textbook: John R. Heapes, Other Worlds: UFOs, Aliens, and the Afterlife (Bloomington, IN.: iUniverse, 2014).

Please complete Questionnaire 11, Four Planets- Social Institutions, Social Stratification, and Social Problems before proceeding in Podcast 11.
Answer the following 14 questions to the best of your ability.
Answers and discussion follow Questionnaire 11.

Questionnaire 11, *Four Planets- Social Institutions, Social Stratification, and Social Problems*

**Social Institutions**
1. Do aliens get *married*?  
   YES __ NO __

2. Aliens have what types of *governments*? ____________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. What kind of *economic* systems do aliens have? ____________  
   __________________________________________________________

4. Do aliens go to *school*?  
   YES __ NO __

5. Do aliens get sick and go to *hospitals*?  
   YES __ NO __

**Social Stratification**

6. Do aliens have *social classes*, such as upper and lower?  
   YES __ NO __

**Social Problems**

7. Is *homosexuality* a social problem?  
   YES __ NO __

8. Do aliens engage in *torture* on their planets?  
   YES __ NO __

9. Do aliens *war* against one another?  
   YES __ NO __

10. Have these societies solved *overpopulation*?  
    YES __ NO __

11. Does *poverty* exist on alien planets?  
    YES __ NO __

12. Does *crime* exist on these planets?  
    YES __ NO __

13. Is *prostitution* a social problem in alien worlds?  
    YES __ NO __

14. Is *masturbation* a social problem?  
    YES __ NO __
Questionnaire 11, Four Planets- Social Institutions, Social Stratification, and Social Problems

***ANSWERS***

Social Institutions (Questions 1 to 5)
Social institutions are norms (i.e., rules) focused on a society’s long range needs. For instance, all of the ways society created and acceded to distributing goods and services to its members is the institution, the economy.

1. Do aliens get married? YES _x_ NO __
   Acart and Ummo had monogamous marriage systems. One male and one female were joined together in marriage. Additionally, Acartians had nuclear families comprised of a husband, wife, and their dependent children.

2. Aliens have what types of governments? ________________
   Acart had ‘a mix of Earth’s types’ while Ummo evolved from a monocratic to an autocratic to polycratic form. Monocratic and autocratic forms are similar. Both types have one ruler, but the autocratic ruler is harsher. The polycratic form of government has many rulers.

   The Acartian government’s head was the Son of the Sun, and although he ruled the government, he had no special status in the society. For example, while attending a public event, he did not seat in a special place in the stadium.
3. What kind of **economic** systems do aliens have? ___________

Although the path to socialism varied; three planets, Acart, larga, and Ummo had this form of economic system. The No-Named planet did not disclose its type of economic system.

Acartians started with capitalism, but when it created an undue amount of wealth for a few and poverty for the masses, it generated much crime. The poor used crime as an alternate way of reaching the societal goal of wealth. Sociologist, Robert K. Merton called this means for reaching society’s goal **innovation** in his *Strain Theory of Social Deviance*.

On Ummo, socialism evolved from slavery. Earlier in their history, Ummites enslaved their members so they could be used as laborers, or as specimen in biological experiments. This harsh past yielded a more inclusive present economic system where the masses shared the wealth and resources of their society. Since their economy generated more supply than demand for it, this generosity was possible.

4. Do aliens go to **school**? YES _x_ NO __

larga was the only planet to record an educational system. For a book written in 1969, it anticipated ‘distance education’ which is the mode of education so popular today. laran students congregated in classrooms situated on the top floor of their housing units, and lessons were projected on to large screens.
Teachers sat behind the screens to observe their students. An Iargan attended school until 15 or 16 years of age, and then moved to advance work.

5. Do aliens get sick and go to hospitals? YES _x_ NO __

Iarga was the only planet that spoke to this question. Iargans had, what might be called, clinics in housing units and ‘real’ hospitals. Computers were used in a variety of ways. They assessed a patient’s illness, dispensed medicine, called relatives, and provided amusement.

Social Stratification (Question 6)
6. Do aliens have social classes, such as upper and lower? YES _x_ NO _x_

Stratification is an answer to a question, “How are positions (i.e., statuses) in society organized?” If the answer is they are stratified, it means one status is placed on top of another, and the higher status receives more prestige and money than a lower one. For example, in American society statuses are stratified, and CEOs (i.e., Chief Executive Officer) get 558 times more money than an average worker. (See: “CEO vs. worker pay: Walmart, McDonald’s, and eight other firms with biggest gaps.” Schuyler Velasco. The Christian Science Monitor. December 12, 2013.)

Ummo stratified its statuses according to one’s aptitude and spiritual wholeness. Apparently, females and ‘slave laborers’ were
low in these traits since they held lower positions in Ummite society. Additionally, the wives and daughters of high ranking officials in Ummite society were exempt from the directive to become pregnant at puberty. Privilege has its benefits!

Neither Acart nor larga had stratified societies. On Acart, its head of state, the Son of the Sun did not live in a mansion, for example. In a like manner, on larga, members regarded one another on an equal level.

**Social Problems (Questions 7 to 14)**

7. Is **homosexuality** a social problem? **YES _x_ NO __**
   The only planet that mentioned homosexuality was Ummo. Ummites considered homosexuality an ‘abnormality’, and thus something to be remedied. Treatment took place in educational sessions during adolescence.

8. Do aliens engage in **torture** on their planets? **YES _x_ NO __**
   Again, only Ummo reported this condition. Brutal dismemberment occurred during the reign of an official’s daughter in the earlier history of this planet.

9. Do aliens **war** against one another? **YES _x_ NO __**
   There was a nuclear war on Acart in its early history. Then the Son of the Sun developed a solar powered weapon called a ‘solar disintegrator’, and war ceased on this planet. Another weapon
called a ‘solar neutralizer’ was developed to eradicate radiation after a nuclear war. It was reported that Acartians would use this device on Earth, if humans engaged in a world-wide nuclear war. Earth would be cleansed and colonized by Acartians after the humans’ nuclear war.

10. Have these societies solved overpopulation? YES __NO _x__

Acart and Iarga cited overpopulation as one of their planetary problems. Currently, there are 7 billion people living on Earth. The population of Acart is 20 billion. There is much talk about Earth’s overpopulation problem. We can only imagine how bad it is on a planet with almost 3 times as many beings living on it.

Iargans reported 6,000 inhabitants lived in a ½ mile area. The United States reports that there are 87 people/sq. mile.

(See: http://www.census.gov/2010census/data/apportionment-dens-text.php) This leads one to think of the largan population as a swarm of ants living together!

11. Does poverty exist on alien planets? YES _x_ NO __

Acart reported poverty on its planet. They said it was a consequence of social stratification. As more wealth went to the top of their society, greater numbers of inhabitants slipped down into poverty. Once they eliminated stratification, poverty vanished.

12. Does crime exist on these planets? YES _x_ NO __
Acart reported crime during the years they were socially stratified. When poor inhabitants could not obtain a better way of life, they engaged in criminal activity to get the resources they needed. After stratification was dismantled, crime disappeared.

13. Is **prostitution** a social problem in alien worlds? YES x No _
Ummites allowed prostitution in one’s earlier years, and officials regulated the trafficking of females. Hyper-sexed females continued in the oldest profession, but as they aged their participation lessened due to religious practices in which they engaged.

During the reign of the official’s daughter, females were directed to get pregnant by puberty. If they didn’t, they would be executed. Many committed suicide.

14. Is **masturbation** a social problem? YES x NO _
Masturbation was considered a social problem on Ummo. Children tried to repress their desire, but if they were unsuccessful, an electrostatic device was attached to their genitals. This treatment was reported to be successful in 4 out of 5 cases, but many reported themselves impotent in later life.

**Summary**
Planets Iarga and Ummo were 10 and 14 light years away from Earth, respectively. Apparently, the No-Named planet is in our solar system because it was behind the moon. Although these
planets are found far from Earth, they shared the elemental components of social structure with us. For example, all of them had a culture with material and nonmaterial components.

The most frequently mentioned material items of culture were: *technology*, *housing*, and *transportation systems*.

**Material Items of Culture**

**Technology**
The technology that was described varied. On Acart *aircraft* were depicted in terms of its size (i.e., 98’ to 115’) and power source (i.e., solar motors).

Iarga’s planetary *transportation system* was explained. Trains were built with material that lasted forever. This transportation system operated so efficiently it did not need schedules to inform travelers when a train departed and arrived.

The *communication system* of Ummo was portrayed as very advanced. This system communicated with galaxies throughout the universe for thousands of years.

**Housing**
Housing was found on all of the planets, but it differed from plant-to-planet. On Acart, housing was similar to Earth’s, but houses did not exceed 100 feet high. All apartments had a platform outside of a window. It served as a landing site for personal aircraft which
was plentiful on this planet. Houses were prefabricated and made of laminated steel with light emanating from their walls.

In contrast to Acart, the No-Named planet’s housing was more primitive. They resided in isolated units that looked like caves.

Ummites lived in tubular structures found above and below the ground.
largans lived in what appeared to be an urban planner’s design. A house was part of a ‘housing ring’. A recreational space
was encircled by glass tanks. This area was bejeweled with flowers, and held a pond with fish. About 10,000 inhabitants occupied each ‘ring’ quarter.

All the housing units looked the same on the outside, but personal taste altered its interior. Upon entering an apartment, one would go through an entrance hall to a gallery. The entrance way had a glass wall on one side where entrants would shower. Although the upper part of one’s body was exposed, no one seemed to mind.
The living area was 60’ x 60’. In America, the average size of an apartment is 982 square feet. (See: Multifamily Executive, 2013 at http://www.multifamilyexecutive.com/) This is less than 1/3 the size of an apartment on Iarga. Built-in furniture adored an apartment, and a 25’ table rose and fell into the floor. Large windows covered a wall.

Cars parked in a basement area where garbage and sewerage was collected for agricultural purposes. Heat drawn from the ground was distributed throughout the building.

**Transportation**

Interstellar transportation systems (i.e., UFOs) were described in all four planetary accounts. Acartian spacecraft was disc-shaped with three levels, and held 30 occupants. The bottom level contained small ships and weapons. The middle level held living spaces and laboratories while the top level had control, locomotion, and defense systems.

Two types of No-Named spacecraft were described. One was bell-shaped with a ring structure around it. The other was disc-shaped and 1,640’ long. A dome was situated at the top of the craft, and a light beam emanated from its bottom. This light functioned as an elevator transporting travelers into and out of the craft.
The human witness described the UFO he landed on when he jumped off his boat off the coast of the Netherlands. It was 50’ in diameter with a 3’ entrance hole. He saw many compartments in it with different types of equipment. The control panel was festooned with colored lights and darting lines. The lines traced trading routes the craft took in outer space.

Another space vehicle was 90’ in diameter with a domed glass panel on top. Slots adorned the outside lower rim, and an antigravity machine powered it.
The Ummite craft was 43’ in diameter with three legs that protracted when it landed. The spacecraft was powered by magnetism, and it emitted an orange light upon take-off that decontaminated the craft.

**Nonmaterial Items of Culture**

**Values**

Values, the foundation of a society’s social structure, were found on every planet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANET</th>
<th>VALUES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acart</td>
<td>compassion, competition, efficiency, equality, knowledge, noninterference, peace, recreation, work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Named (Botucatu)</td>
<td>activity, environment, self-reliance, work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iarga</td>
<td>efficiency, freedom, justice, love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ummo</td>
<td>abstract/rational thinking, love, modesty, respect</td>
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Three values; *efficiency* (Acart, larga), *love* (larga, Ummo), and *work* (Acart, No-Named) were found on 3 of the 4 planets. All of the other values were dispersed among the planets.

Values guide sentient beings into activities their societies deem important and appropriate for behavior. Assessing alien
values, we note aliens direct their members in economic activity as well as personal relations. For instance, on planets Acart, No-Named, and Iarga competition, efficiency, work, activity, and self-reliance drove their members’ economic actions. While on Acart, Iarga, and Ummo aliens were directed in their personal relations by values, such as equality, justice, respect, and love.

It appears aliens agree with the predominant Western economic notion of the work ethic, but with a socialistic twist. Although Individuals are responsible for working, their economic needs are cared for by the collective societies in which they live. Aliens also agree with the Western legal system of justice and equality of individuals. Human religious beliefs, such as respect and love are practiced beyond Earth too.