

Gender roles, Gender Identity

&

Gender Stratification

Lecture 20

Gender Roles =

- normative behavior assigned to each sex

generally done by women

- Gather fuel (e.g. firewood)
- Making drinks
- Gathering wild vegetal foods
- Dairy production (e.g. churning)
- Spinning
- Doing laundry
- Fetching water
- Cooking
- Preparing vegetal food (e.g. processing cereal grains)

swing activities

- Making fire
- Body mutilation
- Preparing skins
- Gathering small land animals
- Planting crops
- Harvesting
- Tending crops
- Milking
- Making baskets
- Carrying burdens
- Making pottery
- Clothing manufacture
- Loom weaving
- Preserving meat and fish

generally male activities

- Hunting of large animals
- Metalworking
- Lumbering
- Working wood
- Making musical instruments
- Building boats
- Working bone, stone, & shell
- Mining and quarrying
- Butchering
- Collecting wild honey
- Fishing
- Building houses
- Making nest & rope

Gender Identity

- appearance and social roles -
psychological aspect – what they feel they are
- Not always same as biological sex

TRANSGENDERED

- = persons whose gender identity, gender expression, or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.

3rd gender – not-man-not- woman

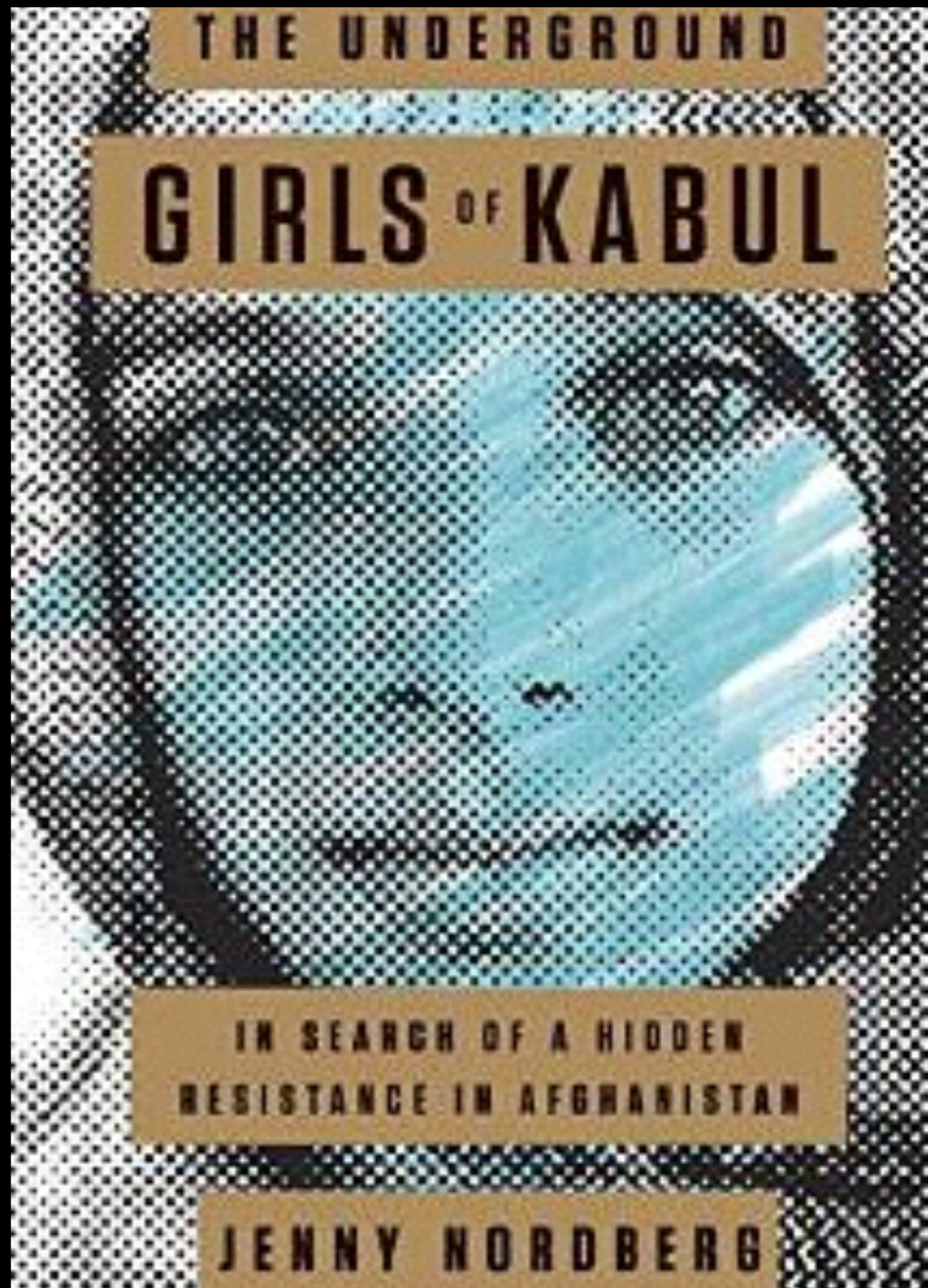
- often enjoy considerable prestige
- especially valued for ability to act as intermediaries between the natural and supernatural worlds.

women:

- Manly hearted women (Native American tribes)
- Female husbands (Africa)

bacha posh (dressed
up like a boy)=
Girls who dress up
like boys to live as a
boy as long as they
can.

Jenny Nordberg (2014)



Gender stratification:

- = Unequal distribution of rewards (socially valued resources, power, prestige, and personal freedom) between men and women, reflecting their different positions in a social hierarchy.

Patriarchy

- political system ruled by men in which women have inferior social and political status, including basic human rights.
- Nowhere do women have more social power than men – no matriarchy

Peggy Sanday (2002) *Women at the Center*

- Minangkabau of Indonesia
- coexistence of matrilineal custom and nature-based philosophy = *adat*
- NOT equivalent of female rule

3 main things associated
with the status of women:



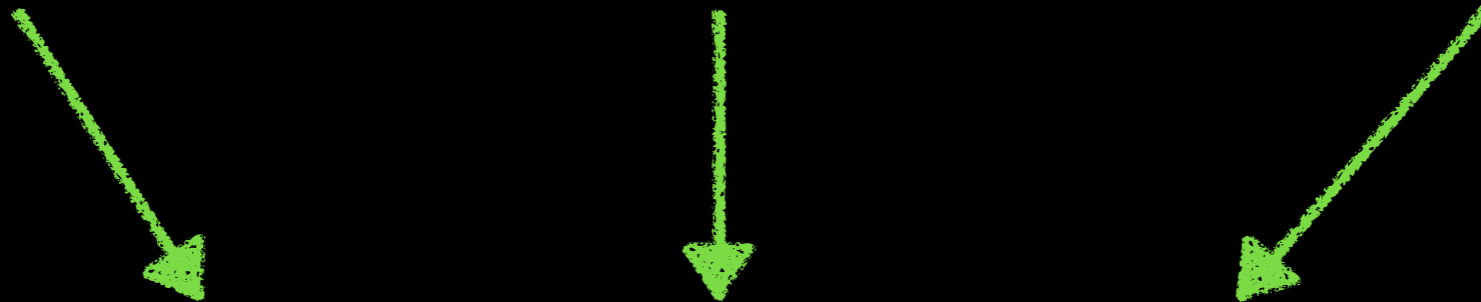
Residence &
Descent Patterns



Degree of Domestic-
Public Dichotomy



Amount Contribute
to Subsistence



Status of Women



Degree of Sexual Equality

#1. Residence and descent patterns

- Matrilineal & Matrilocal (highest)
- Patrilineal & patrilocal lowest (dowry murders, female infanticide, clitoridectomies) (Sambia, Half the Sky)
- neolocal & bilateral (U.S., !Kung)

#2 Degree of domestic- public dichotomy

- = contrast between women's role in the home and men's role in public life, with a corresponding social devaluation of women's work and worth
- gender status more = when small

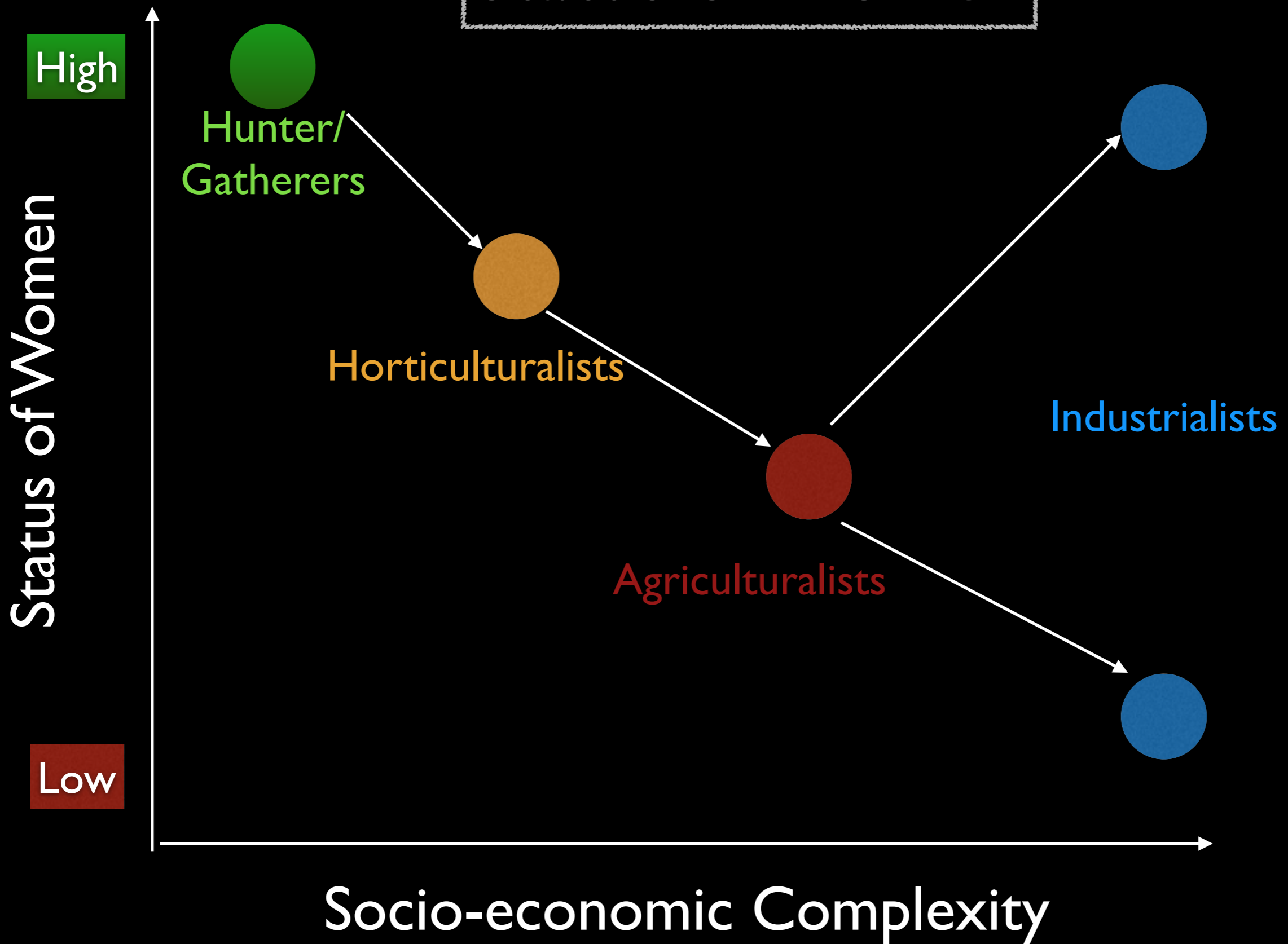
3 Amount Women contribute to subsistence:

- Women have higher status when contribute to economy of household (not just amount of work!)
- EX. Ijo - Amakiri higher value of women due to market, change in China, upper class women in U.S.?

5 SUBSISTENCE STRATEGIES

- affect the status of women – directly related to contribution and domestic-public dichotomy

Status of Women



Hunters and Gatherers

- Greatest gender equality
- little private property and no classes
- Women provide 80% food, no public private dichotomy (exceptions)
- little sexual double-standard
- Ex: Nisa

More Complex societies

- economic classes, private property and towns and cities, women have less domestic authority, unequal sex restrictions, less solidarity with other women and fewer property rights.

Horticulturalists

- 1) Depends on who are the producers -
- In 50% of societies, women main producers
- In 33% =
- In 17%, men do most work
- Ex. Ijo, Sambia

Agriculture

- when the economy is based on agriculture, women loose role as primary cultivators
- Women main producers, 15%
- Men main producers in 81%
- status very low

Industrialization

- Depends
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2011 - by the World economic forum (Swiss research organization)

highest gender equality

- Iceland 1
- Norway 2
- Finland 3
- Sweden 4
- Ireland 5
- New Zealand 6
- Denmark 7
- Philippines 8
- Lesotho 9
- Switzerland 10
- Germany 11
- Spain 12
- Belgium 13
- South Africa 14
- Netherlands 15
- United Kingdom 16
- United States 17

lowest gender equality

- Turkey 122
- Egypt 123
- Syria 124
- Iran, Islamic Rep. 125
- Nepal 126
- Oman 127
- Benin 128
- Morocco 129
- Côte d'Ivoire 130
- Saudi Arabia 131
- Pakistan 133
- Chad 134
- Yemen 135



Residence &
Descent Patterns



Degree of Domestic-
Public Dichotomy



Amount Contribute
to Subsistence



Status of Women



Degree of Sexual Equality

Equality of sexuality is closely linked to and an indicator of status of women

- multiple spouses? M only 77%, W only 0
- premarital sexual double-standard? W more restricted 44%, M 0
- extramarital? W more restricted 43%, M 3%

- Kabul, Afghanistan -(The Taliban ruled most of Afghanistan 1996-2001)

Reading:

- Nicholas and Kristof, Introduction & Chapter 1