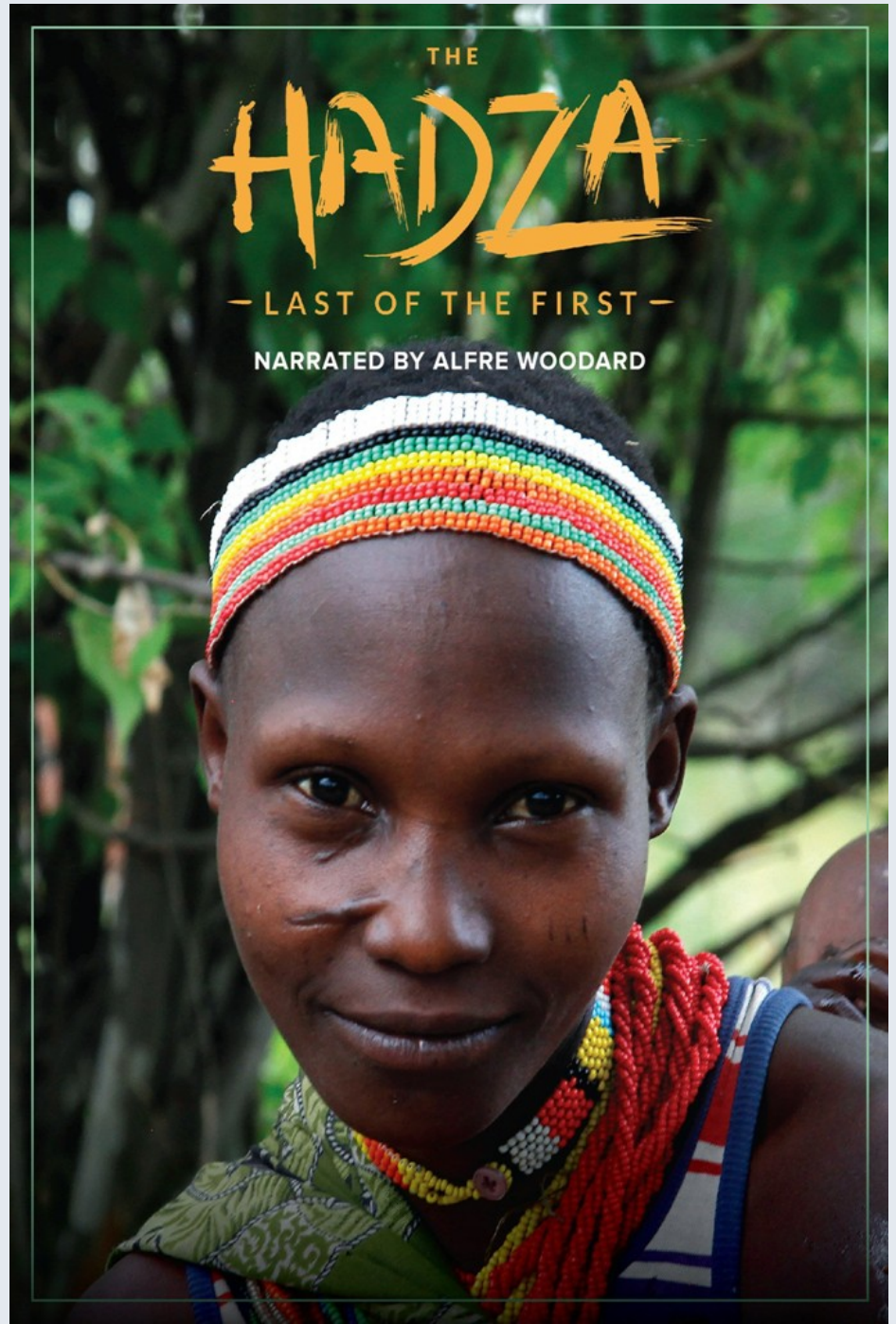


HUNTER-GATHERER STUDIES

A
FRAMEWORK



WHAT ARE COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS OF HGS

Kramer &
Coddling

A FRAMEWORK

- Historical aspects and approaches to studying hunter-gatherers
- How those approaches have shaped our understandings of 21st century HG communities.



Figure 1-1. World map showing locations of some of the foraging societies discussed in the text. Drawn by Dan Delaney.

HUNTER-GATHERERS (FORAGERS) DEFINED

- Economically – mode of subsistence.
 - reliance on hunting wild animals, gathering wild plant foods, and fishing
 - no domesticated plants and animals (except dogs)



HUNTER-GATHERERS (FORAGERS) DEFINED

- Socially – band level societies, live in small groups where membership is flexible and relations are generally egalitarian (Kelly 1995).



HUNTER-GATHERERS (FORAGERS) DEFINED

- Cosmology and world-view (Lee and Daly 1999)



ETHOS AND WORLD-VIEW

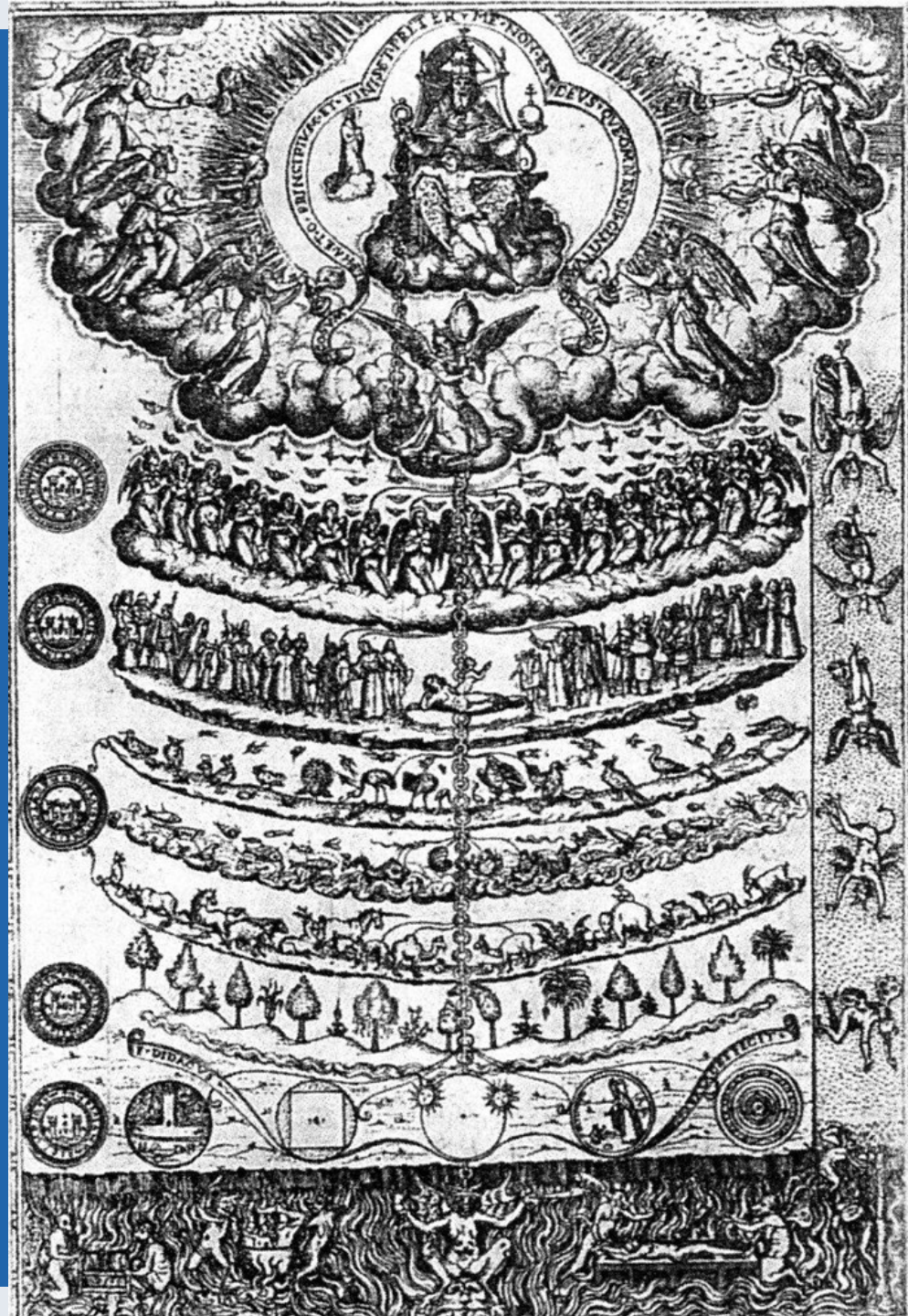
- Sharing – “central rule of social interaction among HGs” (Lee and Daly 1999:4)
 - Morgan – “primitive communism”
 - Generalized reciprocity
- Giving Environment?
- A Trickster
- Shamanism

IMAGES OF HGS IN
EUROPEAN SOCIAL
THOUGHT

Barnard
1999

19TH CENTURY

GREAT CHAIN OF BEING



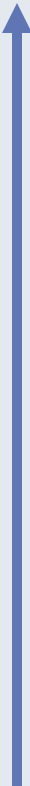
RISE OF EVOLUTIONISM

□ Unilineal Evolution

- Developed by Lewis Henry Morgan
 - Concept of Cultural Evolution

□ Do not need to seek causes for the present state/activities of a group's "culture" in biology or climate, or any other factor outside of culture itself.

LEWIS HENRY MORGAN (1818-1881)

- 
- Civilization – use of phonetic alphabet
 - Barbarism – herding and agriculture
 - Savagery – hunting and gathering
 - 3 stages
 - Lower
 - Middle
 - Upper

RECAP

- Hunter-gatherers at the bottom of the social evolutionary scale B/C:
 - Few material possessions
 - No private property
 - Moral limitations (lazy, brutish etc.)

- Initially a search for the archetypal HG turned into a quest to figure out why there is diversity

20TH CENTURY MODELS

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Disappearance is not due to technological inefficiency
 - Political factors – European expansion
- Importance of early human history
 - Contemporary H&G are not relics from the past
 - But participants in the modern world system
- Forced into marginal areas

THE ORIGINAL AFFLUENT SOCIETY

THE ORIGINAL AFFLUENT SOCIETY



MARSHAL Sahlins

HOW DO WE DEFINE HUNTER-GATHERER?

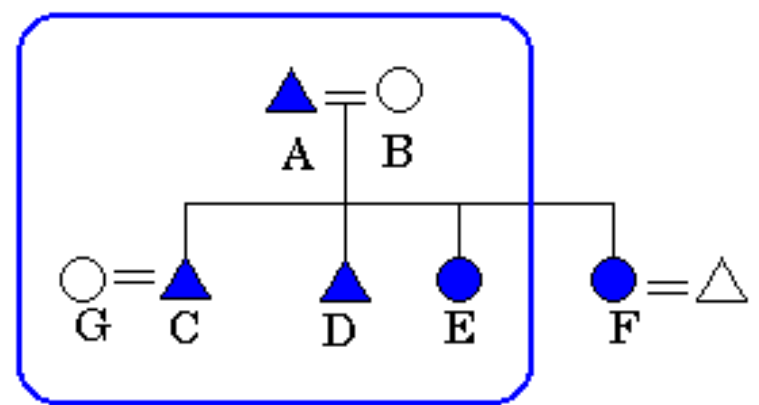
- Do we define it in...
 - Evolutionary terms?
 - Organizational terms?
 - Subsistence terms?

PATRILINEAL/
PATRILOCAL

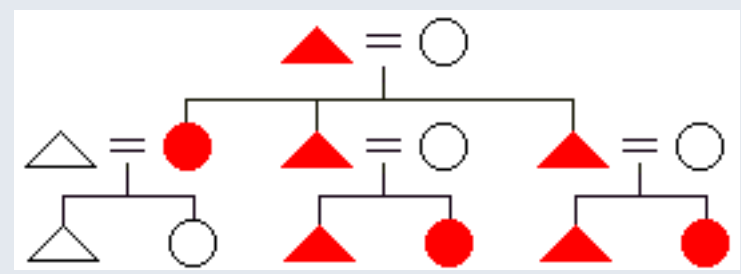
PATRILINEAL/PATRILOCAL

- Radcliffe Brown = description of Australian Aboriginal social organization, first mention of the patrilineal band

Patrilocal Residence Rule



The son ("C") brings a wife ("G") into the family.
The daughter ("F") marries and leaves the family.



GENERALIZED FORAGING MODEL

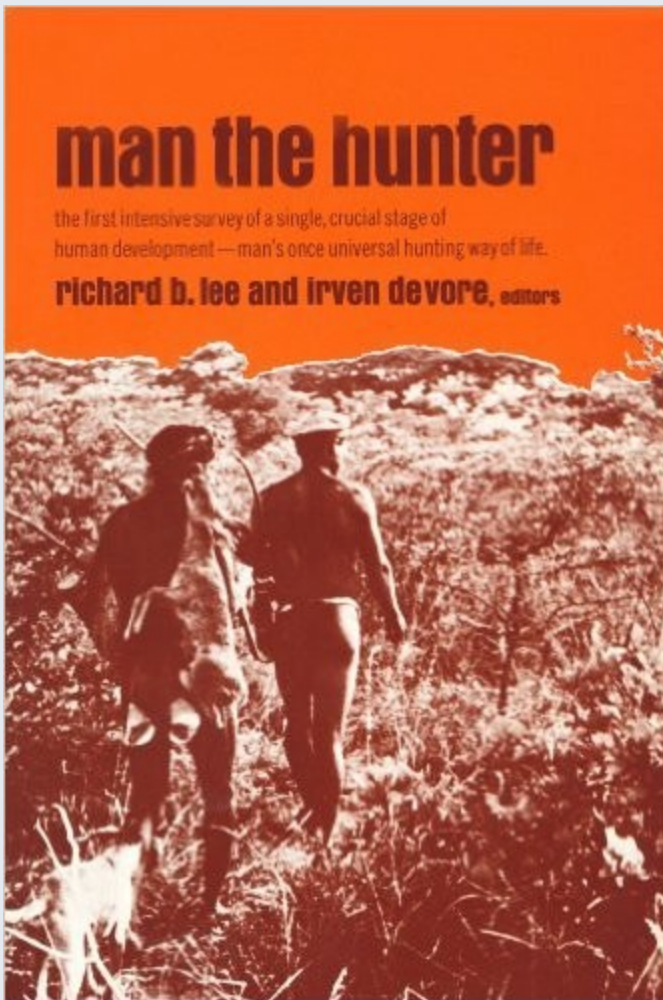
THE ORIGINAL AFFLUENT SOCIETY

THE ORIGINAL AFFLUENT SOCIETY



MARSHAL Sahlins

MAN THE HUNTER (1968)



MAN THE HUNTER CONF.

- ❑ Surprise! A result of the the “Man the Hunter” conference
- ❑ Marriage, demography, territoriality, social and political organization and evolution from a variety of contexts
- ❑ Despite name they claim to have discussed the importance of women...



GENERALIZED FORAGING MODEL “NOMADIC STYLE”

1. Egalitarianism
2. Low population density
3. Lack of territoriality
4. Minimum of food storage
5. Flux in band composition

As read in Kramer and
Coddling, what other
questions/conclusions came
from the 1968 "Man the
Hunter" conference?

THE INDEPENDENT MODEL

OR PROFESSIONAL PRIMITIVE

- HGs are not isolated or outside of history

- A history of contact has resulted in dramatic changes in HG livelihoods

- 2 main issues
 1. Are sociocultural trends associated with Hging itself or as a product of interactions with other nonHG groups
 2. The increased concern with political economy
Modes of production

MARXISM

- Developed by Marx and Engels
- Civilization followed the invention of private property (result of internal conflict)
 - Some individuals became wealthy and needed to protect wealth ->Social classes and specialization followed

EXCHANGE SYSTEMS

- Market Principle
 - Capitalism
 - Supply and demand

- Reciprocity – exchange between social equals
 - Generalized
 - Balanced
 - Negative

- Redistribution – movement of goods and services to a center and then flow back out.

RECIPROCITY (SAHLINS 1972)

□ Generalized

- giving without expecting a concrete or immediate return
- Less about economic exchange, more about relationships
- Between kin or fellow house or band members

□ Balanced

- Exchange with those distantly related, or not related
- Cousins, trading partner, fictive kin

□ Negative – deceit, cheating, theft, raiding