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Social Theory Lecture Notes
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John Stuart Mill

What is the big idea??

Women's "rights" → not just in the workplace, also in the family

Slavery

- What do slaves not have that Mill (and other liberals) think is absolutely necessary?
 - Equality, free will, independence, power, bribery, and interaction (see pg. 166)
 - ↳ Franchise

examples: 1. Slavery: Serfdom, chattel
2. Monarchy: Absolute Despotism
3. Gender

Ascribed vs. Achieved Status (not status honor that Weber was talking about)

- naturalization
 - Does Mill think slavery is natural?? No, but it had become naturalized OR accepted within society.

- naturalization
- effected by laws
- social conditioning

-knowledge comes from equality and intimacy (coverture)

- What are the examples of a shared problem?
 - irrational
 - all examples of "unfreedom" or subjection.
 - Mill objects to this because he is a liberal in the classical sense.
 - Mill is articulating a "liberal feminist" argument vs. Engel who makes a "Marxist feminist" argument.

- What makes Mill's argument a liberal feminist argument?
 - quality of life = freedom of conduct (pg. 178)
 - Also merit, not birth, is another thing liberals value → consent.

- What is objectionable about slavery?
 - Slaves are unfree, they cannot control their conduct, therefore they can never prove they are equals.

- What about in a monarchy?
 - Peasants, like slaves and women, also do not have freedom of conduct and without this you can NEVER BE EQUAL.

- It is a case of unfreedom and unjust authority
 - partially because of dependence (material) (pg.177)

-Declaration of Independence (liberal document)

- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- feminist borrow language from this because they are calling on the same things
- It is about personality and individualism
- Very different from Engels

- Class writing:
 - evaluate the extent to which 21st century societies (beginning with the U.S.) Have adopted Mill's ideas for solving problems in society.

- Marriage, education, laws all breed inequality for women
- Despotisms are safe, orderly, secure places; however, you are unfree, birth determines where you end up in this society.

- How is family a despotism??
 - Obedience (Obey your elders / status differences)
- Engels thinks:
 - Women have more power in proletariat families - this is exactly opposite of the argument Mill is making.
- in upper class families inequality will be hidden within the family.

	Central Problem	Epistemology	Privileged Subject	Historical and Social Change	Idiom
Engels	origins female's status as social (not natural) Domestication	historical, materialist, economic, reductionist	working class, includes females	Epochal shifts, in relations of production and family	Marxist
Mill	female's subjection, unfreedom, inequality	standpoint theorist, intimacy, equality	free, reasoning, individual	resocialization, intimacy, political struggle	liberal