

Postmodernism

Module: SJS14017
1804867

Student no:

What is Postmodernity?

"The period following modernity, which is less clearly defined, pluralistic and socially diverse".

Giddens and Sutton (2017 p.13)

Antiquity to Modernity

- ▶ Postmodern Era: mid 20th Century onwards:
- ▶ Modern Era: 18th Century to mid 20th Century:
- ▶ Enlightenment: 17th Century: scientific revolution
period of reason, tolerance, universalism
- ▶ Antiquity: deism/theism

Modernity

- ▶ The Nation State
- ▶ Parliament/Two party politics
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Nuclear Family
- ▶ Religion/Church
- ▶ Production/Industrialization/Urbanization
- ▶ One way media (tv/cinema/newspapers)
- ▶ Faith in Science/Medicine/Technology
- ▶ Identity/Class

20th Century

- ▶ Questions about whether society is actually making progress: Giddens and Sutton (2017):
- ▶ The Holocaust 1941-1945
- ▶ Atom Bomb 1945
- ▶ Thalidomide Scandal 1958-1968
- ▶ Aberfan Disaster 1966
- ▶ Torrey Canyon Disaster 1967
- ▶ Challenger Disaster 1986
- ▶ Chernobyl 1986

Postmodern Influences

- ▶ **Jean Francis Lyotard (1924-1998):** Skepticism towards grand-narratives such as Structuralism, Marxism, Feminism, Sociology, Science, Religion
- ▶ **Jean Baudrillard (1929-2007):** Influence of media and technologies on society: hyperreality; simulacrum
- ▶ **Zygmunt Bauman (1927-2017)** From solid modernity to liquid (post) modernity

Postmodern society

- ▶ Globalization
- ▶ Detraditionalisation
- ▶ Consumerism
- ▶ Mass Media/Social Media
- ▶ Symbols and Meanings
- ▶ Religion as Commodity/Hybridity
- ▶ Different forms of family, marriage
- ▶ Pick and Mix Culture
- ▶ Simulacrum
- ▶ Hyperreality

Giddens and Sutton, (2017); Agnihotri, (2016); Giddens, (1991)

Conclusion

- ▶ Loss of faith in grand narratives
- ▶ Diversity, Fragmentation, Detraditionalisation
- ▶ Pick and Mix identities
- ▶ Increased relevance of symbols, signs and texts
- ▶ Mass media, simulacrum and Hyperreality
- ▶ Fundamentalism

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