Anthropology Notes: April 2, 2009

* Caste system in India is endogamous
* There are ways to pollute castes (sleeping with lower castes, eating beef, eating with untouchables)
* Untouchables know their place and abide by their set-by-tradition rules
* Your caste is not based on monetary wealth or intelligence; if a Brahmin is poorer than a Shudra, the Brahmin still has better status than the Shudra; caste system is not based on economic system
* There are many rules of separation to keep the lower classes from polluting the higher classes
* The caste system is similar to slavery or black-white relations in the 30s and 40s
* Karma is the justification of the caste system; religious reasons were used to persecute blacks as well
* Structural approach looks at the structure of a society
* Harijans – children of God according to Gandhi (untouchables)
* After Independence India abolished caste system in the constitution - Protective Discrimination is much like Affirmative Action but for America this came in the 1960s when in India it came right after Independence – these programs allow lower castes to get educated and have opportunities to succeed