

introduction

- sociologists have been divided on the issues of the New Rights view of the family.
- politically and ideologically, the NR were at their most influential during the 80's and 90's.
- the main sociological supporter for the NR is Charles Murray who claims that the nuclear family is the ideal family type,
- the NR theory corresponds with functionalists views of the family, often referred to as an updated version of functionalists thinking.

conclusion

- to conclude, the general shared idea of the NR is that the Nuclear Family is the ideal family form and is more likely to cost the state less.
- outdated idea as there are many different family types.
- has been very influential in terms of influencing government thinking.

criticisms

- does not take into account the varied experiences of people with non-traditional families who value their relationship.

nuclear family is ideal

New Right thinkers believe that the nuclear family is the ideal family type

-Murdock believes that compared to other family types such as the extended and single parent families, nuclear families support society the most as it consists of instrumental and expressive roles. instrumental roles provide financial support and establishes family status.

-Charles Murray believes that the traditional nuclear family is the best type of family. He went on to claim that the traditional nuclear family is threatened by the welfare state and when referring to unplanned pregnancy he believes that young women have babies in order to gain money from the welfare state.

-Thus, the NR view of the family is they believe that children should have a mother and father in order for the family to be stable and for children to be properly socialised. They are critical of other family forms, in particular lone mothers. They believe that children of single parents families grow up to be lazy, benefit dependent and criminal

criticisms: can be criticised as society is changing and different family types are more common, as well as this most single parents are not welfare scroungers, most want to work but find it hard to find jobs that are flexible enough so they can balance work and childcare.

welfare state leads to a culture of dependency (cont)

-thus, they believe the welfare state is being exploited and misused by certain people in society, particularly the subclass known as the 'underclass' and this creates a generation of people who are socialised by their family to do the same.

criticisms: other sociological parties argue that the New Right 'blames victims' and stigmatizes the parent families, blaming them for the problems such as unemployment and growing crime rates in young people. There is also limited research to show that women get pregnant to show that young women get pregnant for housing.

women are expressive and men are dominant

policies that promote the nuclear family

the New Right supports social policies that favour the traditional two parent family structure.

-it believes that it is possible to reverse the decrease in nuclear family by implementing the following policies: 1, removing or cutting down on welfare benefits for single parent families and unemployed people 2, making it difficult to obtain a divorce.

-this would force more people to seek employment and stop relying on the state

- teenage pregnancies and single parent families would decrease due to the lack of incentives e.g benefits

-additionally, more couples are likely to stay together if divorce is difficult.

-these factors will prevent poverty, crime and reliance on benefits

Criticisms: NR has had a negative influence on government policy so that it is more difficult for people to get benefits and see the benefit-dependent in bad light.

lone parents are unnatural

welfare state leads to a culture of dependency

New Right thinkers believe the state is leading to a culture of dependency.

-Society now finds it easier to accept the benefits rather than go out to work.

-Charles Murray refers to the term 'under-class' as being caused by single parenting, consisting of people who live on benefits and make no efforts to get a job.

-he believed young women have babies in order to gain money from the welfare state, which meant that young men did not have to take responsibility for fatherhood.

New Right thinkers believe it is natural for men to be dominant and women to be expressive.

-like functionalist the NR view the nuclear family is 'natural' and based on fundamental biological differences between men and women. They believe ideally see the wife should stay home and look after the children (expressive) whilst the husband works (instrumental).

-Halsey and Dennis recognise the problem of single parenting and particularly the problems of absent fathers, they believe unemployment has affected the 'breadwinner' role.

-Dennis and Erdos argues that boys with absent fathers grow up without a male role model and therefore lacks primary socialisation into the traditional male role.

-thus, NR thinkers believe that in order to be stable the family must have a male thinker, especially families with young boys so they can adopt traditional roles

criticism: feminists would argue that the traditional gender roles are oppressive to women. Gender roles are socially constructed rather than being fixed biology.

lone parenthood is unnatural and harmful to children, as well as divorce.

-New Right thinkers believe that children should be cared for by two parents with clear division of roles in a stable household.

-breakdown of the nuclear family causes social problems for example crime, poverty and become over-reliant on the welfare state and a decline in morality.

-they also believe if it becomes easier to get abandoned, this will lead to higher rates of other family forms.

-Dennis and Erdos believe that boys with absent fathers will have poorer health and worse life choices.

-Benson and McKay says that mental health problems are more prevalent in children with separated parents.



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lone parents are unnatural (cont)

-Thus, NR thinkers believe in order for society to work harmoniously, nuclear families should be the most common family type, this is because they are an agent of socialisation.

Criticisms: NR assumes that a two parents family does not have any negative aspects at all. They ignore the dark side of the family. Children can still be significantly adversity affected if both parents still live together but are in constant conflict or an empty shell marriage.



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