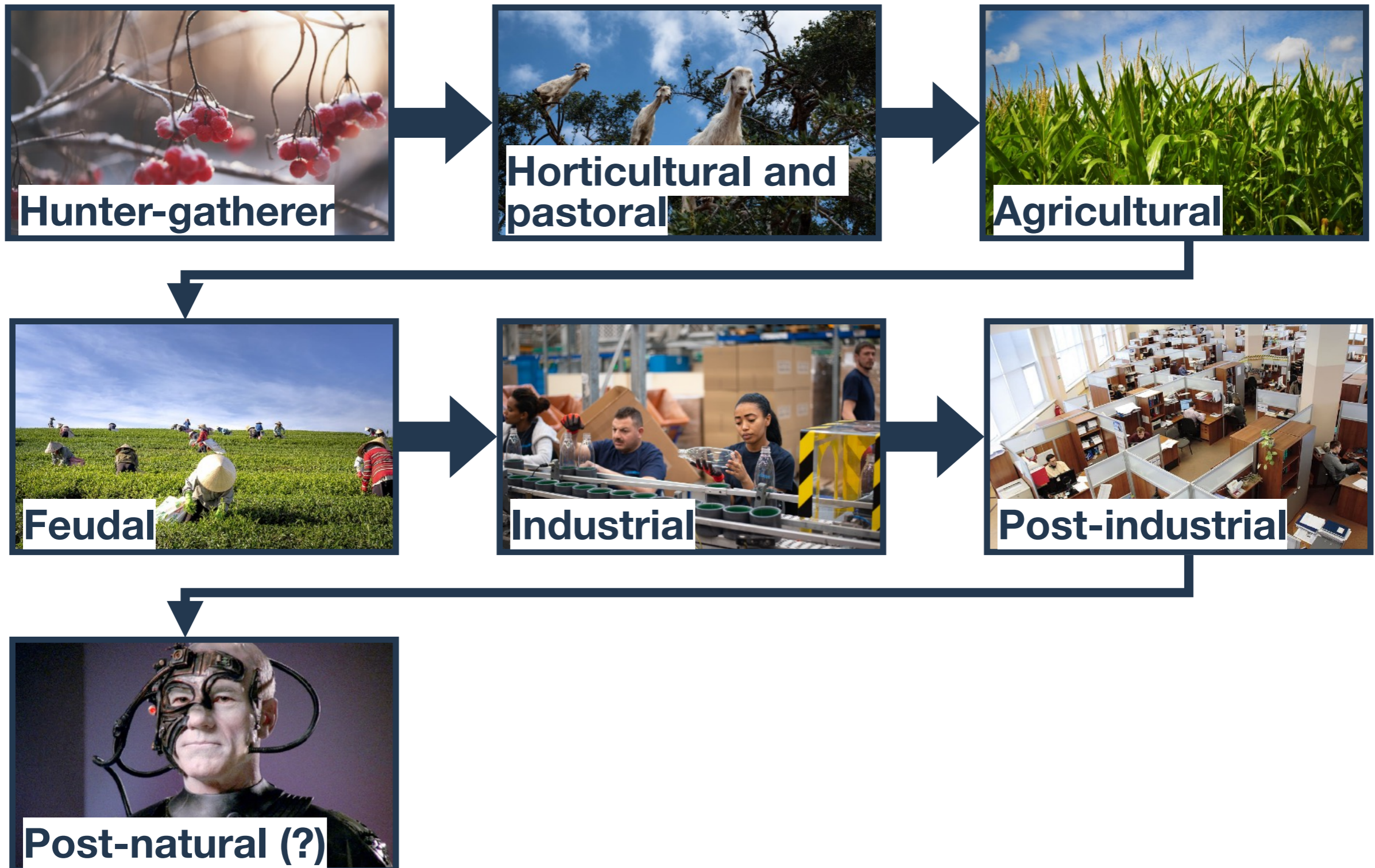


Sept. 17

1. Nation states and societies
2. European colonialism
3. Theoretical tradition 1: structural functionalism

Societal Transformation and Progress

Societal transformation



Societal transformation

Problems with “progress” view

- Order not universal
- Some societal transitions have gone counter to assumed order
!Kung San in Kalahari Desert in Southern Africa, e.g.
- Danger of “reading history sideways”
Looking to current hunter-gatherers for insight into the lives of ancient hunter-gatherers
- Eurocentric categories

Usefulness of “progress” view

- Synchronicity
Human history is very long, but agrarianism and industrialization emerged across the globe at similar times
- Asymmetric effects of societal transition
It may be “easier” to industrialize than to de-industrialize, e.g.

Place and the Nation-state

Place and the nation-state

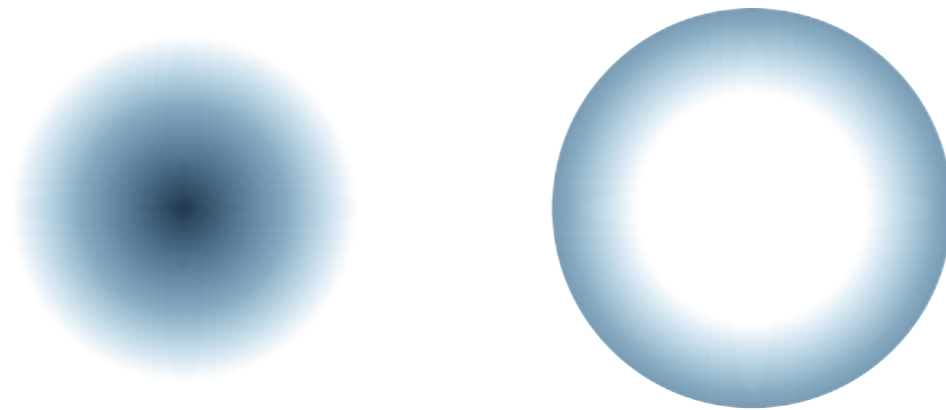
What is a society?

- Tendency to use community or town as template

Relate to a group of people through shared trait: *place*

Center versus border

- Two related ways to define a group
- Who am I like? What makes us similar?
Idealized core of a group holding people together
- Who am I *not* like? What makes them different?
Boundary of a group keeping non-members out
- Two sides of same concept, but emphasizing one or the other makes big difference



Place and the nation-state

The modern nation-state

- *Nation:*
group of people sharing a cultural identity
- *State:*
Territorial government
- Became de-facto political unit over the last 200+ years
- Currently seen as universal
All land seen as territory

Center versus border of the nation-state

- Sense of unified identity often invoked, and sought by governments
- Geographic boundary usually prevails

Place and the nation-state

Conflicting Schemas

- **Multiple identities at odds within single country**
Québec in Canada
Assamese in India
- **Claims of unified identity used to question sovereignty**
Russian annexation of Crimea
North and South Korean jurisdiction

Nationalism

- **National unity can become a tool for dominance**
- **Internally**
Rwandan genocide
Nazi Germany
- **Externally**
American exceptionalism
Nazi Germany