

4.1 POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Anthropologists Classify:

- (a) Formal political organization (USA, Ashanti)**
- (b) Informal political organization (tribal, etc.)**

2. Purposes in Regulating Public Behavior

- (a) Promoting Social Order**
- (b) Discouraging Social Disorder**

3. Control Mechanisms

- (a) Restrict**
- (b) Eliminate**

B. FOUR TYPES OF HUMAN ORGANIZATION (Sahlins and Service)

1. Band

- (a) Autonomous group related by kinship**
- (b) Limited food supply**
- (c) Egalitarian**
- (d) Informal leadership**
- (e) Decisions by consensus**

2. Tribe

- (a) Larger than band**
- (b) Autonomous subtribal groups; organized according to:**
 - (1) kinship groups**
 - (2) societies (nonkinship)**

(3) age-set system

3. Chiefdom

- (a) Power concentrated in one person**
- (b) Greater population**
- (c) Ranked society**
- (d) Leadership may be hereditary**

4. State (Nation-State)

- (a) Greatest population density**
- (b) Intensive agriculture**
- (c) Strict caste/class ranking**
- (d) Monopoly of physical force**
- (e) Political organization functions to:**

(1) Maintain economic status quo

(2) Maintain social order by:

- a. maintaining borders, subdivisions, citizenship**
- b. setting up legal codes**
- c. carrying out court decisions**
- d. setting up fiscal systems**