

# Changes in Family Structure

Willmott and Young Stages of Historical Development of the Family	
Stage One: Pre-Industrial	
Stage Two: Early Industrial	
Stage Three: Privatized Nuclear	
Stage Four: Asymmetrical*	
*Asymmetrical is no longer part of Willmott and Young's analysis as there is too little evidence to support the existence of this stage.	

"Fit Thesis" Functionalist	
Advantages of Extended Families in Pre-Industrial Societies	
Advantages of Nuclear Families in Industrial Societies	Mobility Decline of Nepotism State Takeover of Family Functions
<b>Arguments in Favor of the Fit Thesis:</b> Talcott Parsons (1959) William Goode (1963)	
<b>Arguments Against the Fit Thesis</b> Janet Finch (1989) Nora Carlin (2002) Peter Laslett (1972)	

Class Analysis of Changes in Family Structure Michael Anderson (1995)	
Working Class and the Extended Family	
Middle and Upper Classes and the Nuclear Family	

Post Industrial Societies and Family Structures	
Increased Diversity	Effects of the following Easy Access to Divorce  Greater Social Acceptance  Increased Life Expectancy
Beanpole Families Julia Brannen (2003)	Characteristics  Benefits

Government Policy and Changes in Family Structure	
Interventionism	State Takeover of Traditional Family Functions Education Health Care Elder Care
Welfare State Policies	Disincentives to Marry
The New Right	
Feminist Position	
Marxist Position	

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