

Study Questions for *Osama*

Gender Stratification: An unequal distribution of societal rewards (i.e. socially valued resources, power, prestige, and personal freedom) between men and women, reflecting the different position each gender has in the social hierarchy.

Domestic-Public Dichotomy: Strong differentiation between the activities of men and women as they relate to gender and the prescribed gender roles for men and women related to the home and to the outside world. Often when domestic-public activities are clearly separated, public activities have greater prestige. This tends to promote gender stratification because men are more likely to be in the public domain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As portrayed in the film, how was a woman's existence different from a man's existence in Taliban-led Afghanistan? Give specific examples.
2. How would you describe gender stratification under the Taliban in Afghanistan? Illustrate your answer with examples. Are there clues that the situation might have been different prior to the Taliban coming to power?
3. The link between gender stratification and the domestic-public dichotomy of life under the Taliban is evidenced throughout this film. Give some examples of how the activities of men and women are separated along prescribed gender roles related to the home and to the outside world.
4. Do you think the Taliban's treatment of women - and the rights of all people, both men and women - is indicative of the teachings of Islam? What does your textbook have to say about gender in Muslim countries? Is it possible to make general statements about gender relations and Islam or is there great variation both between the different Muslim states and within the populations of these individual states?
5. How would you describe gender stratification in the United States? How about here at Tech? In what ways does your answer to this question differ from what was represented in the film?