Definition

Different scholars have defined society in various ways. The definitions given by them are either functional or structural. From the functional point of view, society is defined as a complex of groups in reciprocal relationship, interacting upon one another, enabling human organisms to carry on their life-activities and helping each person to fulfil his wishes and accomplish his interests in association with his fellows. From the structural point of view, society is the total social heritage of folkways, mores and institutions; of habits, sentiments and ideals. The following two definitions view society from its functional and structural aspects respectively.

According to MacIver, "Society is a system of usages and procedures, of authority and mutual aid, of many groupings and divisions, of controls of human behaviour and of liberties. This ever-changing complex system we call society. It is the web of social relationships".

According to Giddings, "Society is the union itself, the organisation, the sum of formal relations in which associating individuals are bound together".