

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

Social Invention Inventionists Social Redefinition

According to Gilmore (1990) To be eligible to marry males must be able to:

1. Economically Provide
2. Protect against human enemies and/or animal predators
3. Procreate (having had some sexual experience)

For female

1. Procreate
2. Care for children
3. Run a household.

“The length of adolescence. . .is determined in most societies by the age of marriage, which in turn is the consequence of decisions made by persons controlling the marriages of very young people, who are rarely in an economic or political position to make such determinations themselves.” Schlegel and Barry 1991

“It is possible that young people in traditional cultures ‘feel adult’ earlier than young people in the United States and other industrial societies, as a result of being given considerable work and family responsibilities from an early age.” Arnett, 1998

“People in English society between 1500 and 1700 viewed the

transition to adulthood as an extended and gradual transition, in which legal, social, and economic rights and obligations were granted gradually as young people developed the appropriate character qualities in the course of many years after puberty. The transition to adulthood became complete for most people when they married in their late twenties.” Ben-Amos (1994)

Life-Cycle Service

Criteria for Adulthood

Criterion	Rank	%
Accept responsibility for one’s self	1	43
Financial independence	2	40
Independent decision-making	3	25
General independence/self sufficiency	4	25
Independent household	5	22
Become a parent	6	19
Spontaneous, fun-loving, adventurous		
Nonconforming (as <i>not</i> adult)	7	17
Employed full-time	8	15
Avoiding reckless behavior	9	12
Emotional maturity	10	12
Marriage	11	8

EMANCIPATION OF A MINOR

1. Get married (need parental permission)
2. Join the armed forces. (Need parental permission)
3. Get a declaration of emancipation from a judge.

MILITARY SERVICE

EMPLOYMENT

Changes in Interpersonal Status
Changes in Political Status
Changes in Economic Status
Changes in Legal Status

CONTINUOUS AND DISCONTINUOUS TRANSITIONS

POVERTY AND ADOLESCENCE
Collective Efficacy

“Social problems are contagious; they are spread from one adolescent to another in a pattern not unlike a medical epidemic.” Steinberg