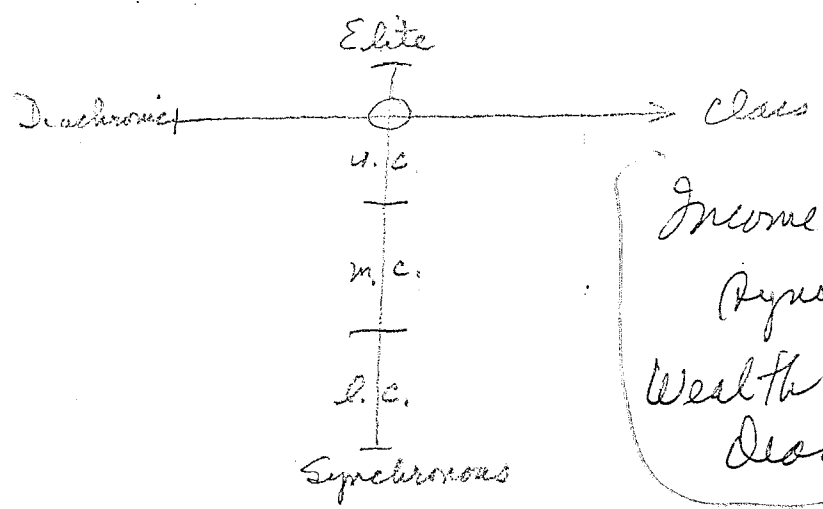


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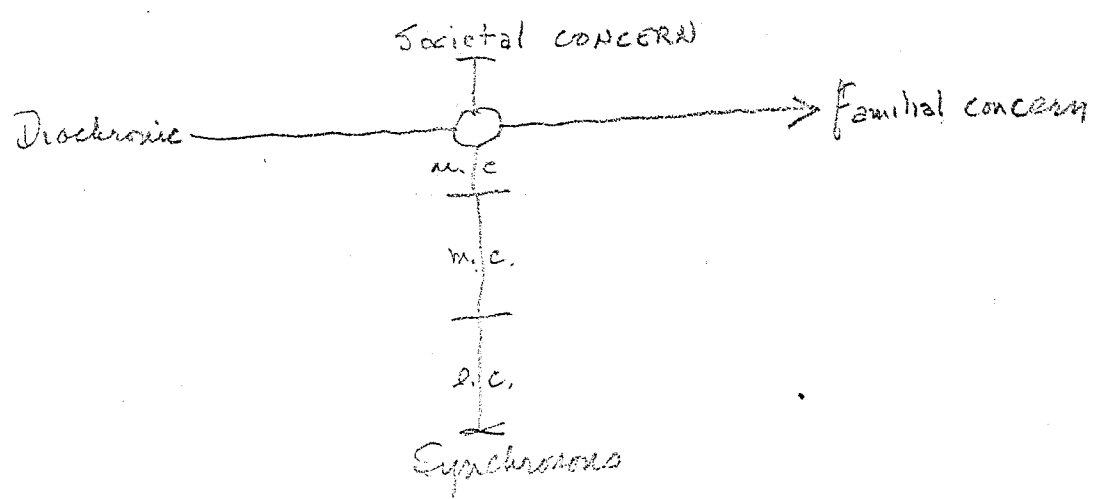
Synchronous and Diachronic elements in definition of Class & Elite.

In determining and classifying the status of a group in society on a times continuum, we can say that an elite exists only in terms of a synchronous view of the social hierarchy, and a class (or caste) only in terms of a diachronic view of the social hierarchy, as:



Income represents the Synchronous factor  
 Wealth represents the Diachronic factor

This follows from what we may call the "concern felt by the ruling class" on a synchronous as opposed to diachronic basis, whereby the ruling class can well regard itself as serving the good of all society by its function of rulership on a synchronous basis (the obligation of the ruler), but it will strive to preserve its familial continuity on a diachronic basis. So:



Most of the problems of historians and sociologists who speak of class and elite lies in their inability to see separately--or to keep separate as elements in any formula--the divergent character of the ruling class as conceived (and self-conceived) instantly as opposed to over time.