What’s the main point George Dalton was trying to make in his article *Traditional Production in African Primitive Economies*?

He shows how “primitive” economies in Africa differ structurally from developed economies in the west. Africa is different economically different from Western styles as it is based off of kinship, religion, and political organization. Economics is embedded in larger cultural social structures.

What evidence does he use to support this idea?

- Production groups typically aren’t separate associations.
- “Primitive” economy is more integrated into the society.
- Process of production is related to social structure.
- Use of reciprocity and redistribution explaining the allocation of factor resources, the arrangement of work, and disposition of produce.

How does it relate to what we’ve been talking about in class?

It related to the idea that economics is an institutional process that is embedded within larger structures/institutions, such as kinship, religion, and politics, so subsystems of larger all-encompassing sociocultural systems.

What do you consider the strengths of this article?

He provided a lot of good evidence and well organized by his three points listed above. He support his evidence.

What do you consider the weaknesses in this article?

Seems to be just referring a lot to Africa as a whole. Well, as I always say it’s a pretty big place so...

Do you feel that you learned something from this article? If so, what?

We learned that the “absence of market exchange as the dominant economic organization allows indigenous African production to take forms different from those in western economy.” These forms invariably entail social control of production by kinship, religion, political organization.