

Abstract

I deal with the relation between food and society in this work. I write about foodways influenced by society and culture, where are these foodways occurred. I mention development of food since antique period till this time. I mention role, which played diet in the relation between nations, but even within one society. There are few sociologists, who are interested in food, but in spite of this, this work points out some of them, especially Norbert Elias.

I place emphasis on actual themes associated with food and eating. These problems are hunger, obesity, thin cult, eating disorders. Then I point out eating trends like vegetarianism, bio food, genetically modified food, fast food and slow food. The tackled question is why is a lot of food on the one side of the Earth, but there are many people dying of malnutrition on the second side of the Earth. Why people are becoming fatter and fatter in western societies, when thin cult and desire for slim body is very popular. The consequence of this is eating disorders. I draw attention on the new trends in nourishment, there are emphasized healthy diet, however fast food restaurants are still very popular. People start to prefer natural food, nevertheless scientists manipulate with genes and produce genetically modified food.

When we look on these paradoxes deeply, we can see development of postmodern society and progressing globalisation there. Companies try to have the highest profit and they do not take interests of natural environment, animals and people into account. There are many social movements, which stand out against the big corporations. These social movements do not want another devastation of nature, animal abuse, mass production or uniform eating in the whole world. But these movements are not so powerful to fight against transnational companies. But they can point to problems, media inform public sphere and the discussion starts about these problems. The globalisation and transnational cooperation can get at level, where the biggest inequality will be reduced, especially inequality in nutrition of inhabitants.

