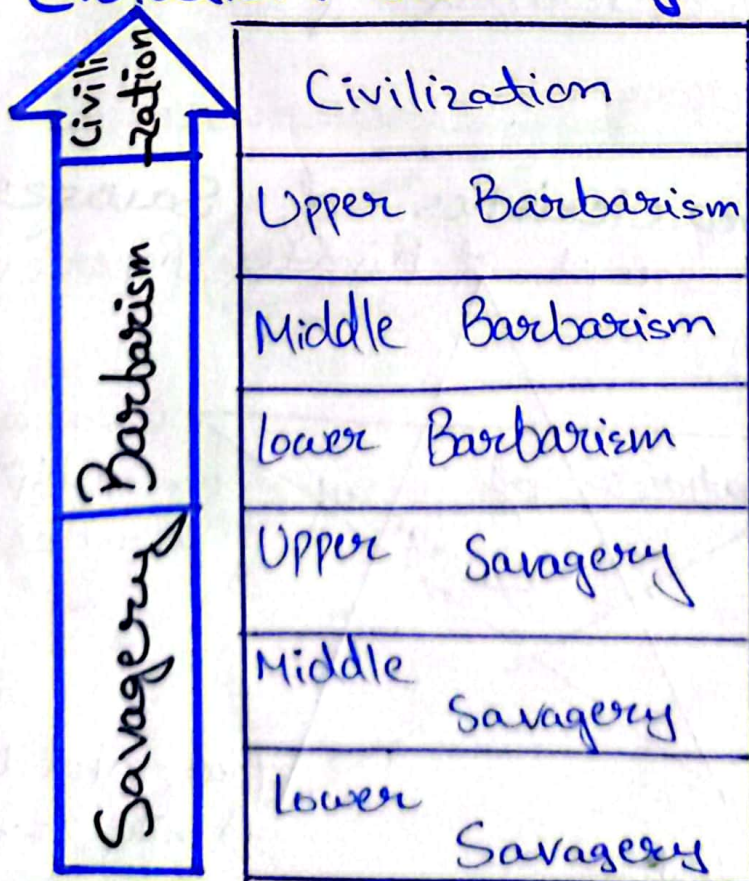


Unilineal Cultural Evolutionary Theory of Henry Morgan

Henry Morgan argued that all human societies and cultures evolved through same series of predictable stages, moving from a primitive stage to ultimate pinnacle of human development which he believed was Western civilization. He argued that human societies and cultures evolved on the basis of technological and economic advancements. According to Henry Morgan's unilineal cultural evolutionary theory, human societies evolved through following stages i.e. Savagery, barbarism and civilization.

Fig: Stages of Unilineal Cultural Evolution according to Henry Morgan



Expounding ~~the~~ Stages of Unilinear Cultural Evolution

1- Savagery

This primitive stage of human society was characterized by subsistence economy based on foraging, hunting and fishing. Henry Morgan divided it into further three sub-categories:

i- Lower Savagery

This was the very beginning of human race marked by reliance on fruits and nuts.

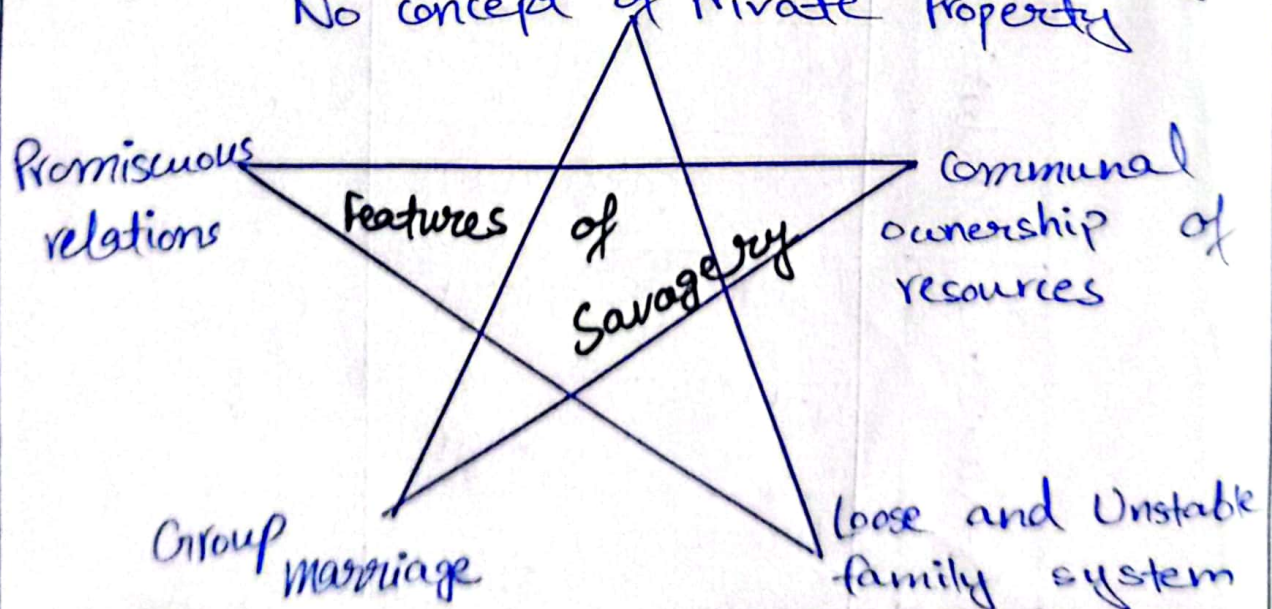
ii- Middle Savagery

This was characterized by the use of fire and invention of ~~the~~ fishing.

iii- Upper Savagery

This was characterized by the invention of bow and arrow.

Fig :- Characteristics of Savagery
No concept of Private Property



2- Barbarism

This intermediate stage of human cultural evolution was characterized by domestication of animals, agriculture and use of metal tools. Henry Morgan divided barbarism into sub-categories:

i- Lower barbarism

This was characterized by the invention of pottery.

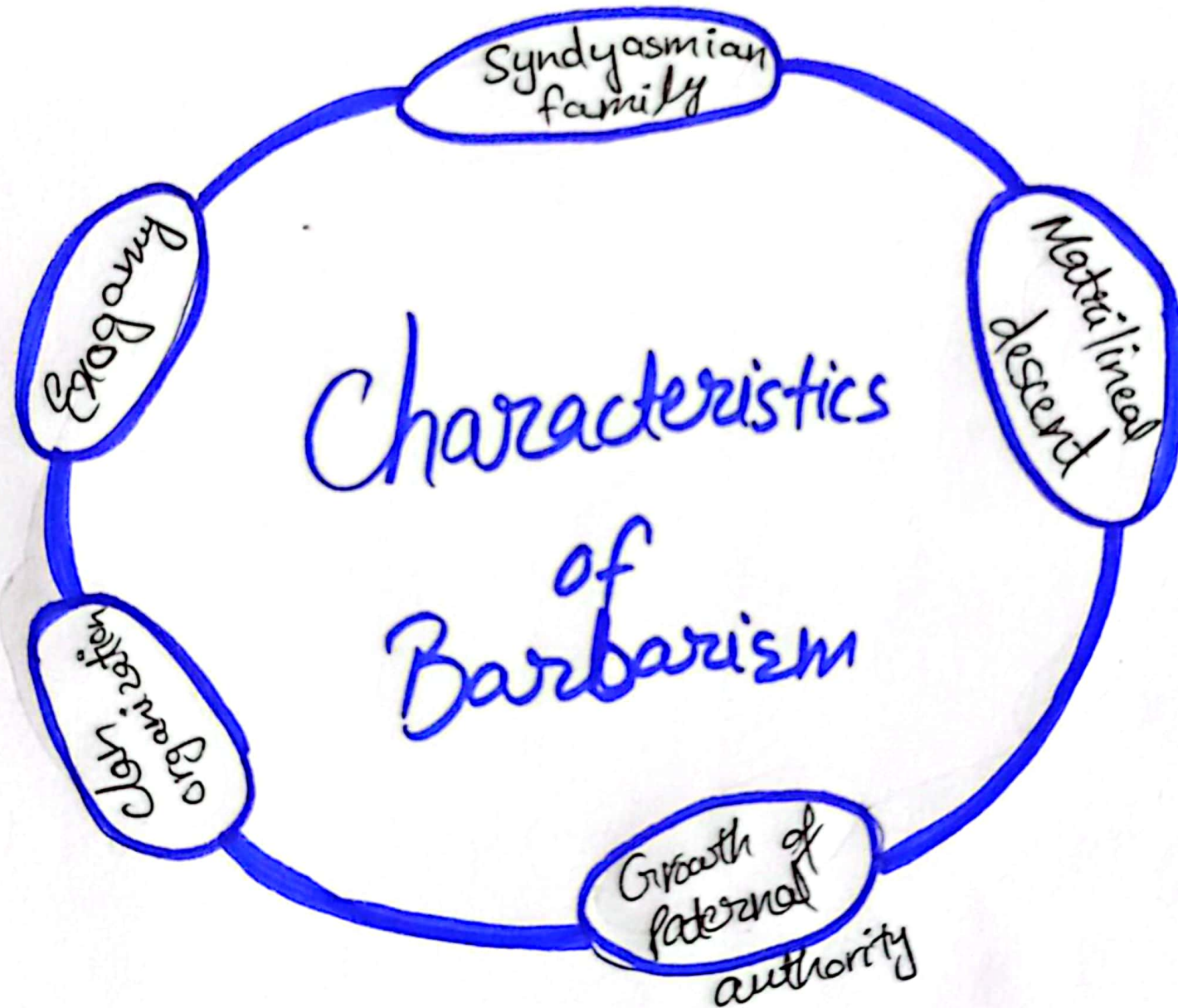
ii- Middle barbarism

Humans learnt how to domesticate animals, cultivate plants and began to practise agriculture.

iii- Upper barbarism

This was characterized by the invention of metal tools.

Fig:- Characteristics of Barbarism

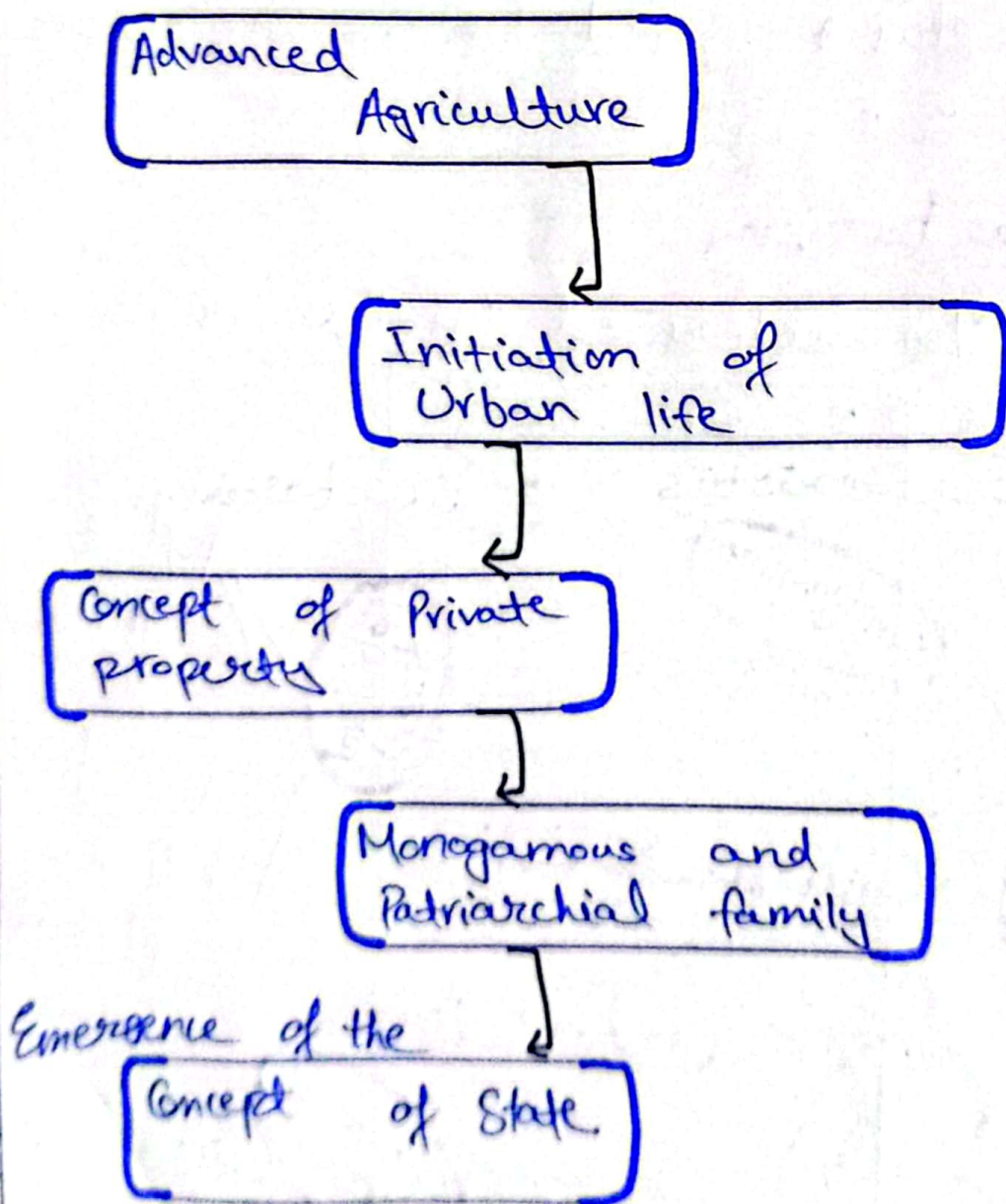


3. Civilization

According to Henry Morgan, civilization was the final stage of cultural evolution in which humans reached the ultimate pinnacle of human development which he viewed believed was Western civilization.

This stage was characterized by use of phonetic alphabets and invention of human writing.

Fig: Characteristics of Civilization



Conclusion

Henry Morgan's unilinear cultural evolution-
any theory argued that ^{all} human societies
evolved through same series of predicta-
ble stages moving from primitive stage
of culture to ultimate pinnacle of
human development which he believed
was Western civilization. However, his work
is criticized by later anthropologists for
his ethnocentric views.
