

Traditional Ways of Life (Villages)

Government

- Village decision- made as a group in a bantaba (shaded hut), supervised by a village leader.
- **Consensus (common agreement)**- for the good of the whole community.

Economics

- Traditional- produce most of what they need to survive.
- **Subsistence Farming- produce only enough for own needs.**
- Main crops- maize, millet, peanuts, and yams.
- Some are also Cattle Herders (Dinka).
- Many areas deal with **droughts (periods of time with little rain fall).**
- Droughts can lead to **Famines (severe lack of food)** in many small African villages.

Family

- Live in small groups- less food needs to be produced.
- Extended families live together (parents, children, spouses).
- Compounds- separate homes for different family members.
- **Communal –Families share possessions & responsibilities.**
- **Lineage- groups of distant kin (relatives) who are linked by a common ancestor.**
- Clan (tribe)- multiple compounds linked by lineage.

Role of Women

- Some tribes are Matriarchal because women are the backbone of village life.
- Educate the children (if no formal school nearby).
- Some tribes allow polygamy- each wife has different duties.
- Some girls marry at age 14 or 15 to a much older man.
- **Bride wealth (price)- gift given to the bride's family upon marriage.**