The central tenet of identity control theory (ICT) is that people perpetually compare their self-perceptions to identity standards that they hold for themselves. Unpredictable disturbances may make it difficult for them to verify their identities (a.k.a. sets of identity standards) within these self-perceptions. Identities remain stable as long as they are verified. Or they may change slowly if verification remains elusive, leading to an erosion of commitment to them. Burke’s objective in this reading is to explain how processes of identity-verification may account for how societies are structured. For example, group boundaries are maintained insofar as each member verifies her or his social identity as “like other group members.” Role identities are mutually self-sustaining as long as each identity finds reciprocal verification in the actions of those with corresponding counterroles. Person identities are sustained through reciprocal verification among individuals. These identities may change through lowered commitment when their simultaneous verification is impossible, or due to exogenous factors such as technological innovations, corporate contraction or expansion, or when a prestigious person alters the standards for social or role identities.