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NEW OUTLINE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

Edited by ALFRED McCLUNG LEE



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COLLEGE OUTLINE SERIES

New Outline of
THE PRINCIPLES OF
SOCIOLOGY

Edited by

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

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New York

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PREFACE

To be helpful to students of sociology in a wide range of colleges and universities, an outline of sociological principles must grow in many hands and in terms of many points of view. Under the editorship of the late Professor Robert E. Park of the University of Chicago, the first edition of this outline had the benefit of such a broad conception in his inspiration and guidance and in the work of the volume's co-authors. It has been the purpose of the present editor and co-authors to carry on this conception in the revised edition. In doing so, each co-author has had sole responsibility for his own section.

Two sections of this outline are newly written. The others have been revised by their authors as needed. Because of the untimely death of Professor Richard C. Fuller of the University of Michigan, Professor Norman Daymond Humphrey has written a new section on "Social Problems" to replace Fuller's. The outline had not had a section on the "Socialization of the Individual," and the editor has therefore contributed one on this subject to the present edition.

The co-authors and Dr. Samuel Smith, Research Director of Barnes & Noble, Inc., have generously given of their time and effort, and their co-operation is appreciated. In addition, Dr. Elizabeth Briant Lee has contributed numerous helpful criticisms and necessary encouragement.

A. McC. L.

April, 1946

INTRODUCTION

By SAMUEL SMITH

The Subject Matter of Sociology. Sociology, the scientific study of society, deals with group behavior, the relationships among men, and the factors entering into and ensuing from these relationships. Wherever an individual is in communication with others, wherever direct or indirect contacts occur, such an individual is an interacting member of the social order. The elements, patterns, and consequences of behavior antecedent or subsequent to this interaction among individuals and between groups is the chief subject matter of sociology.

Sociology is concerned with historical events insofar as they shed light upon the continuous process of group life, this is to say upon the forces common to many events in the history of the group. The history of an institution, for example, may be studied to disclose the factors, principles, and types of group relationships involved in the genesis and career of such institutions.

The total environment as well as the nature of man is considered insofar as it influences the experiences shared by human beings and the progress of their group life. During group life, more or less clearly defined forms, ways, standards, mechanisms, problems, and group characteristics develop. All these factors affect the relations among men and constitute major aspects of sociological analysis.

Sociology as a Science. Science is a systematic search for the facts about the world. Sociology reveals many facts about human beings and their social environment. Problems common to many situations are defined. Data related to these problems are assembled, recorded, classified, and organized. Theories to explain observed phenomena are constructed. Observation, experience, analysis, and experimentation are utilized to test the accuracy of theories. In other words, sociology emphasizes the same quest for the truth about the universe and the same scientific method of inquiry that are characteristic of the other sciences. This field of knowledge deals with events from a sociological point of view, just as other sciences do from a biological point of

view, a psychological point of view, etc. The fact of scientific validity is established by the scientific procedures and results of sociological research.

The sociologist studies the structures and processes of social life as a whole, and in this respect uses a somewhat different approach from that of the other social sciences. From economics, he takes many principles and facts that help to clarify sociological problems—facts about the mechanisms, production, and distribution of wealth. From psychology, he secures important data concerning human behavior, motives, stimuli, responses, and growth. From biology and related natural sciences, he obtains fundamental contributions such as the laws of heredity, descriptions of the physiological processes of animal life, and the like. In other words, for its purposes and in dealing with its characteristic subject matter, sociology makes liberal use of information supplied by numerous other fields of knowledge.

DIVISIONS OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology may be divided into certain broad subdivisions such as the following:

Social Problems, or what is sometimes called Social Politics, seeks to diagnose and deal in a practical way with current social problems. It has been accorded first place in the series of divisions of this outline because the ordinary man becomes aware when he considers these problems in collective existence that he must reckon with a society. Social Problems, therefore, constitutes the natural introduction to more detailed and systematic studies of the typical social situations in which such problems arise.

Human Ecology is concerned with man in the physical, as distinguished from the cultural or institutional environment. The ecological order grows up as a result of competition and the coincident co-operation which inevitably arise among individuals and peoples living together in a common habitat. Ecology looks at society from the point of view of population, its growth and decline, its dispersion and settlement. From this point of view society appears primarily as a biological rather than a civic or moral order.

Race and Culture looks at society as the ethnologist sees it, that is as an association of individuals and peoples each having a common language and possessing at the same time, as a result of

intermarriage and interbreeding, certain distinguishing racial characteristics. These racial characteristics become important as human association and civilization expand since, under these conditions, they are likely to become the basis for national, class, or caste distinctions, and as such enter into the organization and structure of society.

Collective Behavior is concerned with the rise of new societies and new social units, insofar as they are formed in the efforts of societies and social groups to act collectively. Collective behavior studies social movements and the tentative organizations by which they carry on before they have become fully institutionalized. Most social movements tend in the long run to terminate in institutions.

Social Institutions have been regarded by some as the only proper subject of a sociological science. A sociology so conceived tends to be identified with social anthropology or ethnology. Ethnology seeks to study institutions historically while sociology studies them comparatively.

Socialization of the Individual relates the person to society. It shows what society does to the individual and what the person can do with society. Man is portrayed as the creature, carrier, creator, and manipulator of culture.

It should be noted that the divisions included in this classification of subject matter are not independent of each other, but are interdependent and overlapping.

PRACTICAL VALUES OF SOCIOLOGY

For the Individual. Knowledge improves understanding and increases the power of action. Adequate comprehension of sociological processes is essential for those who wish to adjust their intelligence and abilities most effectively to the world of man and nature. This science should substantially assist the individual to understand himself, his resources and limitations, his potentialities and his role in society.

As Community Resources. Like the individual, the community of individuals has need of a constantly increasing fund of shared knowledge concerning the life-processes of its members and groups. Individuals, singly or in association, are enabled to draw upon this common fund of facts. With accelerated progress,

in recent years, in the scientific contributions of our "science of society," the facts of sociology provide a storehouse of resources for the extension of knowledge and the advancement of civilization.

As Applied to Social Problems. Contemporary society is beset by numerous maladjustments and crucial problems challenging the best powers of scientists and social idealists. Just as the facts of chemistry and other natural sciences have proved eminently useful to the art of medicine, so too we look to the future in the hope and faith that men will use the contributions of sociology for the solution of their common problems and the betterment of society. These contributions have been made and are constantly being augmented. The social scientist discloses truths; society can use or misuse these truths as it sees fit. As a scientist, the sociologist is loyal exclusively to the cause of factual research. As a constituent member of the human community, his interest and expectation are that the results of research will be applied to the benefit of mankind.

Tabulated Bibliography of Standard Textbooks on Sociology

(See next two pages.)

The following list gives the author, title, and publisher of the standard textbooks referred to in the table on the two succeeding pages.

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Part One

Social Problems

By

NORMAN DAYMOND HUMPHREY
Wayne University

PART ONE

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

By Norman Daymond Humphrey

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Culture Lag.
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CHAPTER ONE

THE CHARACTER OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The Problems of a Dynamic Society. In a primitive local group or in a peasant village, perceptible social changes are rare. But in modern Western society, they are the order of the day, and they have been for the past four hundred years. Our moral order and its technological underpinnings have been in a condition of moving disequilibrium. The growth of industry, commerce, transportation, and communication, the changed ways of looking at and explaining the cosmos, have led to a disruption of the agriculturally conditioned moral order of a former day. These changes have also led to a redefinition of welfare and morality, and this redefinition has brought with it a concern for social problems and social planning.

PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Frames of Reference. Social problems have been approached from a number of frames of reference and points of view. The man in the street tends to take what Charles H. Cooley called a "particularistic" explanatory viewpoint. The fallacy here is that, in terms of this frame of reference, all social problems are regarded as products of a single cause. The naïve biological determinist, for example, regards the victims of social problems as persons with inadequate heredity. Usually he thinks social problems would be solved by sterilization or by a lowered birth-rate for this group. The geographic determinist, on the other hand, may regard climate as "the cause" of such a problem as poverty and, for that matter, of practically every other social problem.

Such particularistic explanations are readily shown to be inadequate when one enumerates the multiplicity of factors

operative in producing any particular phenomenon that might be recognized as a social problem. All factors have to be accounted for before judgments of their relative significance can be made. But it would be equally erroneous to regard all factors as equally causal and dynamic in producing social problems. Sociologists have developed several frames of reference for purposes of encompassing and ordering the data of social problems. Historically these classifications have moved their bases more and more from the moral type of judgment over toward the relatively objective and scientific.

Types of Perspective. In general, sociologists and other social scientists believe that many social problems arise from differential rates of social or cultural change. Problems have also been regarded as accruing from a failure of culture to accord with and sanction impulses arising in the person. A group of sociological perspectives or frames of reference concerning social problems are discussed and assessed in this chapter. These are: social pathology; disorganization and reorganization; natural history of social problems; culture lag; and conflicting morals and mores.

SOCIAL PATHOLOGY

An early sociological approach to social problems utilized the analogy of society to an organism, and in this social problems naturally became the diseases of that organism. Society might lack a "central sensorium" according to Herbert Spencer, but it possessed pathologies. Actually the concept of pathology simply denoted that which was regarded as subject to condemnation and public disapproval. It became a name-calling term. As sociology passed beyond the analogic stage in its development, another conception, that of disorganization, arose.

DISORGANIZATION AND REORGANIZATION

The Concept of Disorganization gained acceptance after the publication of W. I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki's *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* in 1920. These authors indicated that personal disorganization in Polish immigrants apparently resulted from attitudes (tendencies to act) and values (things possessing meaning) becoming discordant. In a new environment, new impulses to act appeared, and the old definitions of objects

and situations underwent change. Since changes occurred differentially, the life organization of the person also changed. Moreover, the old consensus among persons, or agreement in definitions of situations, altered, and sanctions governing their conduct also changed. Hence, social problems both personalized and community-oriented arose.

Uncritical Use of Concept. But as time went on, other sociologists utilized this conception more and more without critical consideration of its adequacy. It often came to be used more as a moral epithet than as a tool of analysis. Hence, prostitutes who might be well-integrated persons in terms of their own (albeit societally "immoral") scheme of values came to be regarded as "disorganized," because they varied in their behavior from accepted middle-class moral standards. Any similar community, avowedly integrated around vice or political collusion or economic crookedness, was given the same label.

Moreover, there was a frequent failure to recognize that disorganization and reorganization were simply the same ongoing process viewed from different positions. Disorganization of person or of culture never leads to complete chaos, but rather to another level of integration. The concept of disorganization as it usually has been employed, since it always points back to a stabilized integration, fails sufficiently to take into account the dynamic aspects of modern society. In an era of rapid change and a broadening division of labor, consensus among persons generally seems possible only in the most superficial areas of living, and among those persons in comparable positions. Hence to regard lack of agreement among all men as "disorganizing" and condemnatory, is to take a morally nostalgic position about modern life, its problems, and their solution.

NATURAL HISTORY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Richard C. Fuller and Richard R. Myers, conscious of the inadequacies of the "disorganization" approach to social problems, developed a schema under which social problems were to be examined in the light of their natural history. Each social problem, from this viewpoint, goes through phases of (1) attention getting, in which people become aware or conscious of the problem, and (2) efforts to define the difficulty, which lead to (3) proposals for reform. These phases are followed by attempts at (4) organizing for reform. Once programs for reform are set in