

A
SYSTEMATIC SOURCE BOOK
IN RURAL SOCIOLOGY

EDITED BY

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DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY

OF

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

WHO IN APPOINTING THE COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION
DECLARED, "THE GREAT RURAL INTERESTS ARE HUMAN
INTERESTS AND GOOD CROPS ARE OF LITTLE VALUE TO THE
FARMER UNLESS THEY OPEN THE DOOR TO A GOOD
KIND OF LIFE ON THE FARM."

DEDICATED ALSO

TO

SIR HORACE PLUNKETT

WHO GAVE TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
FORMULA, "BETTER FARMING, BETTER BUSINESS, BETTER
LIVING," A DICTUM THAT SUMMARIZES THE BASES OF THE
COUNTRY LIFE MOVEMENT IN THE
UNITED STATES.

DEDICATED ALSO

TO

LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION, WHOSE
DEEP INSIGHT INTO THE LIFE OF THE AMERICAN FARMER
SHAPED THE REPORT OF THE COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION
INTO A DOCUMENT OF PRINCIPLES OUT OF WHICH HAS
DEVELOPED RURAL SOCIOLOGY IN THE
UNITED STATES.

PREFACE

IN THE main these volumes are self-explanatory and therefore need no preface. However, the editors' plan of the *Source Book* was influenced to such an extent by several considerations that they deem it wise to acquaint their readers with some of the personal motives that lie behind the work. The editors have been moved by the following considerations: Human society throughout its history—in its origins, forms, activities, processes, growth, evolution—has been so largely under the pressure of agricultural and rural forces that up to the present sociology as a science of society has virtually been the sociology of rural life. A world view of the sociology of rural life is important for the development of the science. In order to balance the vogue of agricultural economics as an educational discipline and a guide to public action in America, major emphasis is now required upon a sound rural sociology. There is need that the content of rural sociology, whether presented in texts or lying in the popular mind, should contain facts of an indubitably sociological character. There is need in the textual organization of the facts of rural sociology for a resolutely scientific methodology. In the training of American rural sociologists there is need for a broad acquaintance with the rural sociological thought and theory of Europe and Asia. And, finally, in this era of American teaching, research, and extension of rural sociological facts and theory and in this period of experimental agrarian legislation, a systematic source book world-wide in scope is timely. Now let us discuss these points very briefly.

A glance at the bases of general sociology shows the importance of the rural world in the present development of human society. This importance is due, not to the well-known fact that the greater part of the human race is still agricultural and rural, but to the fact that the dominance of industrial forces and the prestige of the city are relatively a matter of yesterday and that rural habit is still the core of human behavior the world over.

Rural sociology in America has grown to large proportions, in a night as it were, on soil prepared by agricultural science. It is not to be marveled at that textbooks in rural sociology in America

are still quite provincial, not even being developed on the geographic basis of the entire country. Agricultural sciences, such as soil chemistry, bacteriology, horticulture, and entomology, have the benefit of European experience. It is scarcely necessary to state that rural sociology needs to benefit from similar world experience.

The economics of agriculture, justly popular in colleges of agriculture as an interpreter and guide among the agricultural sciences, has confined itself so largely to the operations of individual farmers, on the one hand, and to the physical operations and aspects of farmer groups, on the other, that the socio-psychic aspects and relations of the human factor in agriculture are in danger of eclipse. Public action also, in large matters of agricultural policy, is likely to be based unduly on purely economic formulas. To restore the proper balance to economic considerations in agricultural education and public policy, a sound presentation of the sociological elements in agricultural progress is greatly to be desired.

The demand for thoroughly trained sociologists to fill college and university positions in rural social science is now fairly insistent. It seems necessary, therefore, to furnish the material that will enable them to secure an acquaintance with European and Asiatic thought upon the rural social problem. The older nations and races have long struggled to understand the human factor in agriculture, and America's short experience will gain from the wisdom of older historic ideas.

The timeliness of a source book based upon European and Asiatic theory can scarcely be doubted when we reflect upon the prevalence of academic courses in rural sociology, the demand for sociological research made by the agricultural experiment stations, and the opening phase of extension and adult education in all the states. The farmers' recent success in obtaining national agrarian legislation is an additional indication that the present is the psychological moment for the appearance of these volumes.

Now that the chief reasons for these volumes have been canvassed, we may explain very briefly a few features in the plan of the work. The purpose of the *Source Book* is to give a more or less exhaustive survey of the knowledge in the main fields of rural sociology. It is intended to be a complete encyclopedia, a refer-

ence work, and a substantial systematic treatise in the field. It aims to give the reader an adequate and up-to-date knowledge of present-day theories in European, Asiatic, and American scientific literature. This main objective makes the peculiarities of the publication comprehensible. Since it is not an attempt to popularize the science of rural sociology and since it is not intended as a text for beginners, popular and entertaining readings are not included. Since it is intended to be a systematic treatise, its introductions give a systematic analysis of the problems, and the readings are arranged in such a way that they supplement what is briefly touched upon in the introductions. The introductions and the readings together attempt to give a well-rounded, coherent, and factually exhaustive picture of the phenomena in the various fields. Since it is planned as a reference work, it is heavily weighted with factual data and references. This abundance of figures and data may cause the inexperienced or casual reader to fail to grasp the systematic plan and logical consistency of the work, but the careful and competent reader should profit from it without losing the logically coherent system of rural sociology incorporated in the *Source Book*.

The first volume consists of two main divisions. Part One gives a concise summary of the history of rural sociological theory and outlines the main sociological characteristics of the rural world and the farmer-peasant class. The second part gives the details of the external and more formal characteristics of the sociological organization of rural life. The next two volumes will deal in detail with the inner, the institutional, the psychological, and the mental phases of rural organization and the demographic characteristics of rural and urban populations.

It was hoped that the major portion of the volumes could be made up of substantial excerpts from various foreign works, woven together with a minimum of exposition. It was found, however, that for the first volume especially many highly important contributions resisted the method of excerpting continuous self-explanatory passages and forced us to present much material in the form of summaries and digests. This recourse permits the inclusion of a far greater range of reference material without severe loss of original statement.

No apology is offered for enriching the *Source Book* with the more or less elaborate introductions, transitions, analyses, and discussions that make the work in its entirety a systematic treatise on rural sociological thought and theory. The dignity of the subject, the seriousness of the purpose of the editors, and the needs of the hour seem to warrant such a procedure. It is regretted that the volumes could not have been further rounded out by the incorporation of many worthy American studies, but this was quite out of the question. All the important ones, however, are mentioned in the introductions, and their data and conclusions are analyzed. Most of the important American studies, moreover, are already available to American students. Finally, most of the bibliographies are given in the footnotes to the introductions and readings and in special editorial references made at the proper places. Additional bibliographies not mentioned in these notes are appended to the introductions in each chapter.

These volumes have been made possible by the cooperation of several interested organizations: the Division of Farm Population and Rural Life, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture; the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Agriculture; the Graduate School and the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts of the University of Minnesota; and the University of Minnesota Press. Under the terms of the agreement, the editors are to receive no royalties from the sale of the volumes, so that the work may be presented to the public at as reasonable a price as possible.

It should be stated also that most of the introductions, selections, and systematization of the material and, in general, the greater part of the work of the *Source Book* were done by Professor Pitirim Sorokin. Without the encyclopedic knowledge of the literature of rural thought and of sociological theory that he brought to this task and his indefatigable attention to the details of arrangement and interpretation, the *Source Book* would not have been thought possible at this time.

Grateful acknowledgment is due the many American and foreign authors and publishing houses without whose cooperation the production of these volumes would have been exceedingly difficult. Among these should be mentioned the authors and publishers of the readings given, all of whom gave their kind per-

mission to use excerpts in the *Source Book*. Their names are given in the proper places in the volumes. Among many other persons who helped in the work by furnishing data, material, advice, suggestions, bibliographies, and criticisms, and in many other ways, especial mention should be made of Guy Stanton Ford, Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota; Walter C. Coffey, Dean and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota; Mrs. Margaret S. Harding, Editor of the University of Minnesota Press; Dr. Dwight Sanderson of Cornell University; Dr. Migoishi Nunokawa of Tokio University; Dr. Vačlav Smetanká of the Czechoslovakian Academy of Agriculture; Dr. Nikolai Kondratieff of the Moscow Agricultural Research Institute; Dr. Richard Thurnwald of the University of Berlin; Dr. Leopold von Wiese of the Köln Research Institute of Sociology; Dr. Gaston Richard and Dr. G. L. Duprat of the International Institute of Sociology; and Dr. Benoy K. Sarkar of Calcutta University and the India Institute for Economic Research.

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PART I
HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

