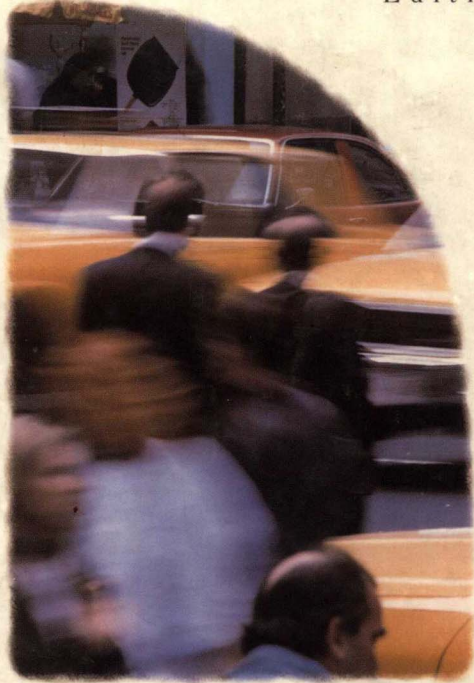
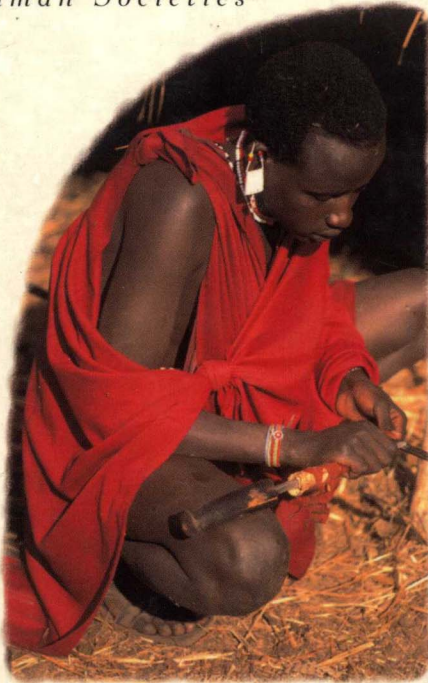


MACROSOCIOLOGY

*An Introduction to
Human Societies*

Fourth
Edition



STEPHEN K. SANDERSON

Macrosociology

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN SOCIETIES

Fourth Edition

Stephen K. Sanderson

Indiana University of Pennsylvania



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For Ruth, Derek, and Sarah

*No description can even begin to lead to a valid explanation
if it does not effectively encompass the whole world.*

—FERNAND BRAUDEL

Preface

Macrosociology is intended for use as a textbook in introductory sociology courses taught by instructors who wish to take a comparative, historical, and evolutionary perspective on human societies. It treats not only modern industrial societies, but also the full range of preindustrial societies—hunter-gatherers, horticulturalists, pastoralists, and agrarian societies. It also looks at how these societies have emerged one from the other in the long span of human history and prehistory, especially the past 10,000 years. In my view there are several important advantages to this broad perspective: enhanced scientific rigor, because comparison is the essence of science; an enhanced ability to combat ethnocentrism; a strong focus on the extremely important issue of social change; and an enhanced ability to prepare students for the global social order in which we now live. A comparative and evolutionary perspective provides a fascinating learning experience that is capable of giving us more insight into the nature of our own society than would otherwise be possible. I have gained enormous pleasure over the years from the comparative analysis of human behavior and human societies, and I am delighted to be able to share what I have learned with others.

In this fourth edition of *Macrosociology* I have concentrated mainly on shortening, streamlining, and to some extent simplifying the text. The first edition of this book was approximately 500 pages in length, but the next two editions grew to 565 and 600 pages, respectively. In all honesty, that is a little too long, and so it was decided to shorten this edition to approximately the length of the first edition. I have done this by condensing some longer discussions and also by eliminating less essential sections. The basic core of the book, however, remains unchanged. Additional chapter-by-chapter changes are indicated below.

- *Chapter 1*: Revised discussion of the idealist and conflict strategies; new special topic, Why Americans Prefer Beef.

- *Chapter 2*: Revised and highly streamlined discussion of human evolution; revised and updated discussion of language; updated discussion of research on ape language; revised discussion of the special topic on sociobiology.
- *Chapter 3*: Simplified discussion of adaptation.
- *Chapter 4*: Updated discussion of hunter-gatherers as the "original affluent society."
- *Chapter 5*: New special topic, The Potlatch.
- *Chapter 7*: Revised discussion of early capitalism.
- *Chapter 8*: Updated discussion of the contemporary situation in postsocialist societies.
- *Chapter 9*: Updated statistical data; updated discussion of empirical research on dependency theory; new section on globalization.
- *Chapter 10*: Revised discussion of stratification under state socialism; updated discussion of stratification and the postsocialist transition; new special topic on stratification and the welfare state.
- *Chapter 12*: Simplified discussion of the emergence of early modern states; new special topic on revolutions and state breakdowns.
- *Chapter 13*: New definition of racism; expanded discussion of racism, especially concerning whether it existed in the ancient and medieval worlds.
- *Chapter 14*: Updated statistical data; updated discussion of the sociobiological interpretation of gender.
- *Chapter 15*: This chapter and old Chapter 16 on the modern Western family have been condensed and merged into one chapter; expanded discussion of monogamy, polygyny, and polyandry.
- *Chapter 16*: More logical organization of the chapter; expanded discussion of the nature of educational expansion; updated statistical data.

- *Chapter 17*: New section on the Axial Age and the rise of Christianity; new special topic on revitalization and millenarian movements.
- *Chapter 18*: Updated discussion of environmental depletion.

I recognize that the organization of *Macrosociology* may not be the preferred one for everyone. It is organized thematically, because that is the way most instructors approach the introductory course, but some instructors may prefer a more chronological or historical organization. That can easily be achieved by reordering the chapters approximately as follows:

- *Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations*: Chapters 1, 2, and 3.
- *Preindustrial and Precapitalist Societies*: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 11, and 15, and appropriate parts of 14, 16, and 17.
- *The Capitalist World-Economy and Industrial Capitalist and Socialist Societies*: Chapters 7, 8, 10, 12, and 13, and appropriate parts of 14, 15, 16, and 17.
- *The Third World*: Chapter 9 and appropriate parts of 12, 14, and 16.
- *The Future*: Chapter 18.

I am grateful to Arthur S. Alderson of Indiana University–Bloomington for his useful suggestions for improvements in this new edition. Margaret Dornfeld of Electronic Publishing Services, Inc., served as the project editor and helped move the book smoothly through the production process. I would also like to thank the reviewers for the current edition: Garrett Olmsted, Bluefield State College; David L. Harvey, University of Nevada–Reno; John Teddy Ambenge, University of Connecticut; David J. Maume, Jr., University of Cincinnati; Peggy A. Lovell, University of Pittsburgh; Christopher Chase-Dunn, Johns Hopkins University; Brian C. Aldrich, Winona State University; and Jack Sattel, Minneapolis Community College. As

in all previous editions of this book, I dedicate it to my wife Ruth, and my children, Derek and Sarah, who were unborn when I first started writing the book and wee tots when I finished the first edition, but who

have now grown old enough to read it and understand it—not that they are necessarily so inclined!

Stephen K. Sanderson

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