

A · N · N · U · A · L   E · D · I · T · I · O · N · S

# SOCIOLOGY



96/97



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# SOCIOLOGY 96/97

## Editor

**Kurt Finsterbusch**  
University of Maryland, College Park

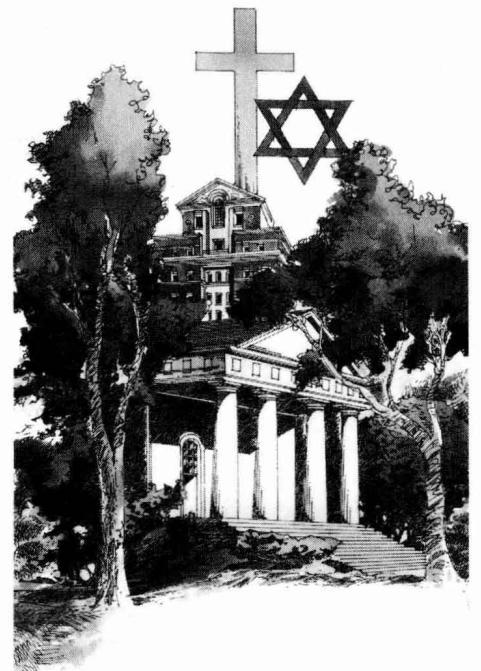
Kurt Finsterbusch received his bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University in 1957, and his bachelor of divinity degree from Grace Theological Seminary in 1960. His Ph.D. in sociology, from Columbia University, was conferred in 1969.

He is the author of several books, including *Understanding Social Impacts* (Sage Publications, 1980), *Social Research for Policy Decisions* (Wadsworth Publishing, 1980, with Annabelle Bender Motz), and *Organizational Change as a Development Strategy* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1987, with Jerald Hage). He is currently teaching at the University of Maryland, College Park, and, in addition to serving as editor for *Annual Editions:*

*Sociology*, he is also coeditor for Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publisher's *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues*.

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Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of Annual Editions. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think you'll find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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# To the Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the *public press* in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Within the articles, the best scientists, practitioners, researchers, and commentators draw issues into new perspective as accepted theories and viewpoints are called into account by new events, recent discoveries change old facts, and fresh debate breaks out over important controversies. Many of the articles resulting from this enormous editorial effort are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced in a low-cost format, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS. Under the direction of each volume's *Editor*, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an *Advisory Board*, we seek each year to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think you'll find this volume useful, and we hope you'll take a moment to let us know what you think.

The 1990s inherit from the 1980s crises, changes, and challenges. Crime is running rampant. The public is demanding more police, more jails, and tougher sentences, but less government spending. The economy suffers from foreign competition, trade deficits, budget deficits, and economic uncertainties. Government social policies seem to create almost as many problems as they solve. Laborers, women, blacks, and many other groups complain of injustices and victimization. The use of toxic chemicals has been blamed for increases in cancer, sterility, and other diseases. Marriage and the family have been transformed, in part by the women's movement, and in part by the stress that current conditions create for women who try to combine family and careers. Schools, television, and corporations are commonly vilified. Add to all this the problems of population growth, ozone depletion, and the greenhouse effect, and it is easy to despair. Nevertheless, crises also provide opportunities, as the freshmen Republican congressmen know so well.

The present generation may determine the course of history for the next 200 years. Great changes are taking place, and new solutions are being sought where old answers no longer work. The issues the current generation faces are complex and must be interpreted within a sophisticated framework. The sociological perspective provides such a framework. *Annual Editions: Sociology 96/97* articles should help you develop the sociological perspective that will enable you to determine how the issues of the day relate to the way society is structured. The articles provide not only information but also models of interpretation and analysis that will guide you as you form your own views.

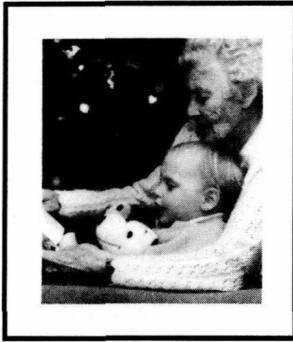
*Annual Editions: Sociology 96/97* emphasizes social change, institutional crises, and prospects for the future. It provides intellectual preparation for acting for the betterment of humanity in times of crucial change. The sociological perspective is needed more than ever as humankind tries to find a way to peace, prosperity, health, and well-being that can be maintained for generations in an improving environment. The obstacles that lie in the path of these important goals seem to increase yearly. The aims of this edition are to communicate to students the excitement and importance of the study of the social world, and to provoke interest in and enthusiasm for the study of sociology.

*Annual Editions* depends upon reader response to develop and change. You are encouraged to return the postage-paid *article rating form* at the back of the book with your opinions about existing articles, recommendations of articles you think have sociological merit for subsequent editions, and advice on how the anthology can be made more useful as a teaching and learning tool.



Kurt Finsterbusch  
*Editor*

Dedicated to Lisa  
for preparing herself to  
serve needy children.

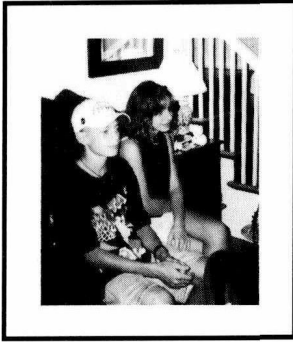


## Unit 1

### Culture

Five selections consider what our culture can learn from primitive peoples, what forces are shaping today's cultures and lifestyles, and what impact crises have on culture.

To the Reader	iv
Topic Guide	2
Overview	4
<b>A. TRIBAL CULTURES AND THEIR LESSONS FOR US</b>	
1. Tribal Wisdom, David Maybury-Lewis, <i>Utne Reader</i> , July/August 1992.	6
The author contrasts <i>modern lifestyles</i> that place value on things with <i>tribal lifestyles</i> that place value on people. The individualism of modern life is contrasted with the relative uniformity of values and the dominating role of the community in tribal life.	
2. The Mountain People, Colin M. Turnbull, <i>Intellectual Digest</i> , April 1973.	12
Colin Turnbull's study of the Ik shows what happens to <i>social relationships</i> in a <i>culture</i> when certain elements in the <i>environment</i> threaten its existence.	
<b>B. FORCES SHAPING CULTURES AND LIFESTYLES</b>	
3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans? Jeff Davidson, <i>Vital Speeches of the Day</i> , May 15, 1993.	22
The shrinkage of <i>leisure time</i> is related to <i>population growth</i> , expanding <i>knowledge</i> , <i>media</i> , the <i>paper trail</i> , and <i>over-abundant choices</i> . Life in the future will be even more frenetic unless we better understand our finiteness.	
4. A De-Moralized Society: The British/American Experience, Gertrude Himmelfarb, <i>American Educator</i> , Winter 1994/1995.	26
<i>Crime</i> , illegitimacy ratios, divorce rates, and other statistics indicate that <i>moral standards</i> have declined in the United States to the point where much that was abnormal and illegitimate has become normal and legitimate. Part of the problem is the widespread retreat from public <i>moral judgments</i> .	
<b>C. CULTURAL CRISES: MORAL DECLINE AND A PERVERSE CULTURE</b>	
5. The West's Deepening Cultural Crisis, Richard Eckersley, <i>The Futurist</i> , November/December 1993.	32
Depression, drugs, and violence are signs that <i>Western culture</i> is in <i>crisis</i> . <i>Values</i> are breaking down, and our <i>culture</i> is failing to provide a <i>sense of meaning</i> . Richard Eckersley analyzes the sources of this cultural decay and proposes some solutions.	

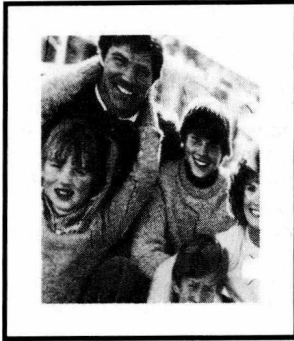


# Unit 2

## Socialization, Biology, Crime, and Social Control

Six articles examine the effects of social influences on childhood, personality, and human behavior with regard to the socialization of the individual.

Overview	36
<b>A. CHILDHOOD AND INFLUENCES ON PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOR</b>	
6. <b>Guns and Dolls</b> , Laura Shapiro, <i>Newsweek</i> , May 28, 1990.	38
The differences between boys and girls persist despite the massive social changes of the last several decades, thus raising the question of whether <b>gender roles</b> are rooted in biology. Recent research has documented innate differences, but most differences are the product of socialization.	
7. <b>Children of the Universe</b> , Amitai Etzioni, <i>Utne Reader</i> , May/June 1993.	42
A well-raised child is a blessing to the parents and a benefit to the <b>community</b> . Today there is a gigantic <b>parenting deficit</b> that cannot be solved by child-care centers. Parents should fulfill their parenting duties and corporations should assist them.	
<b>B. CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SOCIAL CONTROL</b>	
8. <b>What to Do about Crime</b> , James Q. Wilson, <i>Vital Speeches of the Day</i> , April 1, 1995.	48
James Wilson, perhaps the foremost criminologist today, analyzes the current <b>crime</b> problem and recommends <b>policies</b> to address it. He points out that there are two crime problems: one is the worldwide increase in property crimes relating to worldwide <b>cultural changes</b> , and the other is the high level of <b>violence</b> , which requires a rather complex explanation.	
9. <b>Moral Credibility and Crime</b> , Paul H. Robinson, <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> , March 1995.	52
The United States has tried to halt <b>crime</b> and has failed. <b>Rehabilitation</b> does not work. The solution to the crime problem is a criminal justice system that has <b>moral authority</b> and a society that strongly <b>socially disapproves</b> criminal acts.	
10. <b>The Crooked Blue Line</b> , Elizabeth Gleick, <i>Time</i> , September 11, 1995.	58
Spurred by the tapes of Mark Fuhrman, former Los Angeles police detective, Elizabeth Gleick investigates the <b>corruption, brutality, and framing of defendants</b> that afflict many police departments.	
11. <b>When Violence Hits Home</b> , Jill Smolowe, <i>Time</i> , July 4, 1994.	60
<b>Domestic abuse</b> is the side of the crime picture that does not get displayed. Jill Smolowe breaks the silence and describes the depth and duration of the resulting pain.	



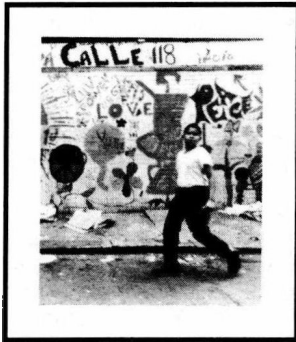
# Unit 3

## Groups and Roles in Transition

Ten articles discuss some of the social roles and group relationships that are in transition in today's society. Topics include primary and secondary groups and the reevaluation of social choices.

Overview	64
<b>A. MARRIAGE, FAMILY, AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR</b>	
12. <b>The Family in Trouble</b> , Jean Bethke Elshtain, <i>National Forum</i> , Winter 1995.	66
A high correlation exists between <b>broken homes</b> and many problems for <b>children</b> that become problems for schools and communities. <b>Discipline</b> and deep connections with various family members are the answers.	
13. <b>Modernizing Marriage</b> , Pepper Schwartz, <i>Psychology Today</i> , September/October 1994.	70
An increasing number of couples have successfully reconstructed <b>gender roles</b> on a genuinely <b>equitable basis</b> . Pepper Schwartz calls this " <b>peer marriage</b> ," describes how it differs from traditional marriage, and considers its benefits and costs.	
14. <b>Now for the Truth about Americans and Sex</b> , Philip Elmer-Dewitt, <i>Time</i> , October 17, 1994.	74
The author reviews the findings of the new and only reliable large-scale survey of American <b>sexual attitudes and practices</b> . This study corrects a number of myths with substantial data, including evidence that Americans are less sexually active and more faithful sexually than is commonly supposed.	
<b>B. GENDER AND GENDER RELATIONSHIPS</b>	
15. <b>Ending the Battle between the Sexes</b> , Aaron R. Kipnis and Elizabeth Herron, <i>Utne Reader</i> , January/February 1993.	78
<b>Sex roles</b> and <b>male-female relationships</b> are changing but not without confusion, <b>conflict</b> , and misunderstandings. The authors, who are in the business of improving communication between men and women, describe the sensitive issues and friction points.	
16. <b>A Time for Men to Pull Together</b> , Andrew Kimbrell, <i>Utne Reader</i> , May/June 1991.	83
The majority of <b>men</b> live ordinary lives that deviate dramatically from the <b>masculine ideal</b> . They cannot provide adequately for a family and are subservient at work. Most are in <b>denial</b> , but awareness is growing. Andrew Kimbrell proposes a political and social agenda for addressing the real needs of men.	
<b>C. COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY ACTION</b>	
17. <b>Crisis of Community: Make America Work for Americans</b> , William Raspberry, <i>Vital Speeches of the Day</i> , June 1, 1995.	89
The <b>crisis of community</b> is that the "single-minded pursuit of <b>group advantage</b> threatens to rip us apart at the seams," according to William Raspberry. <b>Victimization</b> is destroying community, he asserts.	





# Unit 4

## Stratification and Social Inequalities

Nine selections discuss the social stratification and inequalities that exist in today's society with regard to the rich, the poor, blacks, and women.

18. **Individualism: A Double-Edged Sword**, Jeffrey W. Hayes and Seymour Martin Lipset, *The Responsive Community*, Winter 1993/1994. 93

The perception of the moral decline of America is widespread, but the evidence for it is unconvincing, according to the authors. They also challenge the thesis that rampant *individualism* that destroys *community* is a major problem in American society.

19. **"They Can't Stop Us Now,"** David Osborne, *The Washington Post Magazine*, July 30, 1989. 99

David Osborne reports the story of Kimi Gray and other residents of a public housing project who, against steep odds, took over the management of the project and made it a decent place to live. The story of their success provides lessons for a range of *self-help efforts*.

### D. CHANGING DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY AND DYING

20. **Further Thoughts on a "Sociology of Acceptance" for Disabled People**, Howard D. Schwartz, *Social Policy*, Fall 1988. 106

Studies show that, in certain ways, people who are disabled are evaluated more highly than others, and that *public opinion of people who are disabled* is becoming more favorable. Howard Schwartz's study of reactions to the first physically disabled woman to be the subject of a *Playboy* photo layout provides the basis for a discussion of the issues.

21. **Death with Dignity**, William McCord, *The Humanist*, January/February 1993. 110

The role of *choice* in *dying* is shaping up to be one of the major debates of the decade. William McCord explores the *religious, moral, political, and institutional basis* for *euthanasia* or *assisted suicide* and shows how difficult the issues are.

- Overview 114

### A. INCOME INEQUALITIES AND THE POOR

22. **Inequality: How the Gap between Rich and Poor Hurts the Economy**, *Business Week*, August 15, 1994. 116

This essay presents data on *inequality* in America and argues that the large gap between the rich and the poor hurts everyone, especially the poor who are trying to attain a higher level of *education*.

23. **Working Harder, Getting Nowhere**, Nancy Gibbs, *Time*, July 3, 1995. 121

Nancy Gibbs tells the stories of millions of Americans who are the *working poor* or on the edge of poverty. Today, two-earner couples have to work hard even to scrape by.

24. **Poverty's Children: Growing Up in the South Bronx**, Jonathan Kozol, *The Progressive*, October 1995. 124

Jonathan Kozol paints with words the poignant picture of some people who live in a terrifying neighborhood in grinding *poverty*.

### B. WELFARE

25. **Upside-Down Welfare**, Daniel D. Huff, *Public Welfare*, Winter 1992. 128

The thesis of *the upside-down welfare state* is that most welfare goes to the middle- and upper-income classes, and less than 10 percent goes to the poor. Most welfare consists of subsidies, tax breaks, and other handouts for the well-off and the corporations.



## Unit 5

### Social Institutions in Crisis and Change

Eight articles examine several social institutions that are currently in crisis. Selections focus on the political, economic, and social spheres, as well as the overall state of the nation.

26. **Welfare: The Myth of Reform**, *U.S. News & World Report*, January 16, 1995. 132

David Whitman argues that the belief behind welfare reform that the right policies can get most people off welfare is a myth. The facts are that many long-term welfare recipients lack the necessary skills, self-confidence, and appropriate habits or attitudes for jobs, or have disabilities and addictions.

#### C. RACIAL INEQUALITIES

27. **Whites' Myths about Blacks**, *U.S. News & World Report*, November 9, 1992. 138

Though whites' attitudes towards blacks have improved greatly, whites still entertain many *unfavorable myths about blacks*, which this article counters with facts.

28. **Affirmative Action: It Benefits Everyone**, Jesse L. Jackson, and **Let's Get Rid of It**, Armstrong Williams, *The World & I*, November 1995. 140

In the first part of this two-part article, Rev. Jesse Jackson dispels false beliefs about *affirmative action* and relates how the whole nation benefits from it. Armstrong Williams, then, presents his thesis that "making judgments based on race is racism, any way you want to cover it over," and affirmative action should be dropped.

#### D. SEX INEQUALITIES

29. **The Longest Climb**, Lisa Mainiero, *Psychology Today*, November/December 1994. 148

A few women are making it to the top of *corporate America*, and Lisa Mainiero interviewed 55 of them. She describes how they got there and derives some lessons for others who want to follow their path, including the observation that *feminine leadership styles* have some notable advantages over masculine styles.

30. **The Global War against Women**, Lori Heise, *The Washington Post*, April 9, 1989. 151

Most of the *women of the world are suppressed*, exploited, and probably abused. Horrible examples are the bride burnings in India, female infanticides or neglect in many Third World countries, and female circumcision in the Middle East.

- Overview 154

#### A. THE POLITICAL SPHERE

31. **Money Changes Everything**, Daniel Clawson, Alan Neustadt, and Denise Scott, from *Money Talks*, Basic Books, 1992. 156

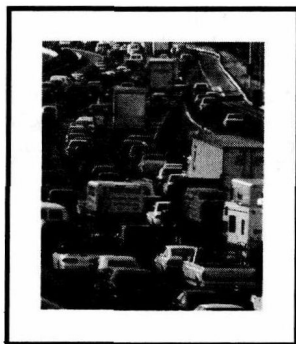
The nitty-gritty of the political system is portrayed in this article. The authors explain *the role of the corporate PACs* in influencing the federal government. They do not buy votes, but they buy access. Corporations usually do not prevent the passage of a bill that they oppose, but they do change its wording so that it does not harm them.

32. **Hyperdemocracy**, Robert Wright, *Time*, January 23, 1995. 162

According to Robert Wright, Washington is not out of touch with the people, but it is bombarded by their opinions through polls, messages, and visits. The result is not better *democracy* but *hyperpluralism* and hampered governance.

33. **The Death of Common Sense**, Philip K. Howard, *U.S. News & World Report*, January 30, 1995. 166

Philip Howard pokes fun at many laws and *regulations* that produce absurd results. Rules and regulations are necessary, but governments must recognize their limits and keep them few and flexible.



# Unit 6

## Social Change and the Future

Eight selections discuss the impact that population, technology, environmental stress, and social values will have on society's future.

### B. THE ECONOMIC SPHERE

34. **Welcome to the Revolution**, Thomas A. Stewart, *Fortune*, December 13, 1993. 171  
America is experiencing four business revolutions at once: *globalization*, *computers* transforming work, the fall of hierarchy in management, and the *information economy*.
35. **The End of the Job**, William Bridges, *Fortune*, September 19, 1994. 176  
William Bridges argues that *the job* as a way of packaging work is disappearing. In a fast-moving economy, the job is too defined and, thus, too inflexible. His assertion that "today's organization is rapidly being transformed from a structure built out of jobs into a field of work needing to be done" may be an exaggeration, but the changes that he documents are fascinating to even a beginning *role-theory* sociologist.

### C. THE SOCIAL SPHERE: ABORTION, EDUCATION, AND RELIGION

36. **Life Is Sacred. That's the Easy Part**, Ronald Dworkin, *The New York Times Magazine*, May 16, 1993. 180  
Ronald Dworkin argues that the *controversies* over *abortion* and *ethanasia* are not as intractable as they seem. There is widespread agreement that *life* in all its forms is *sacred* and that a frivolous abortion is wrong. The disagreement is over how best to honor life's sacredness in specific situations.
37. **Living with Myths: Undergraduate Education in America**, Patrick T. Terenzini and Ernest T. Pascarella, *Change*, January/February 1994. 183  
The authors refute several myths about *undergraduate education* and identify the factors that have the greatest effects on *educational quality*. One key factor is "the extent to which faculty members involve students actively in the teaching-learning process."
38. **The Counter-Attack of God**, *The Economist*, July 8, 1995. 189  
America is exceptionally religious for a developed nation, and 82 percent of respondents to a survey define themselves as "a religious person." The separation of churches from government and, therefore, their *competition* with each other have made them more vital. This report describes many other aspects of American *religion*.

### Overview 192

#### A. NEW POPULATION ISSUES

39. **Reassessing the Earth's Population**, Lester R. Brown, *Society*, May/June 1995. 194  
Since per capita seafood and grain supplies are falling, the current rapid world *population growth* must be reduced. Many nations are exceeding the limits to the *carrying capacity* of their land and water resources, and need to pursue policies of *population stabilization*.
40. **The New Assault on Immigrants**, Luis Gutierrez, *Social Policy*, Summer 1995. 198  
The current assault on *immigrants* assumes that immigrants are adversely affecting America. Congressman Luis Gutierrez shows that the facts are otherwise. Immigrants *contribute* more in taxes than they cost governments, and on many measures they outperform native-born Americans.



**B. ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**

41. **Carrying Capacity: Earth's Bottom Line**, Sandra Postel, *Challenge*, March/April 1994. 204

The doubling of the world *population* since 1950, the quintupling of *global economic output*, and the growing *inequality* in the distribution of world income put immense pressure on *Earth's capacity* to support the human population. Earth's resource base is degrading or declining. The trends are especially foreboding in croplands, pasture and rangelands, fisheries, fresh water, and forests. Many changes are necessary in the way humans use Earth and its resources.

42. **A Time of Catastrophic Extinction: What We Must Do**, Peter Raven, *The Futurist*, September/October 1995. 213

Peter Raven catalogs some of the adverse *impacts* that humans are having on the *environment*, but focuses on the thousandfold increase in the *extinction of species* that results from human activity.

**C. TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY**

43. **Alone Together: Will Being Wired Set Us Free?** Andrew Kupfer, *Fortune*, March 20, 1995. 217

"*Information technology* is poised to alter the scope of human intercourse," writes the author. *Work, home life, residential location*, and many other aspects of life will be dramatically affected by the new technologies.

44. **The Price of Fanaticism**, Bruce W. Nelan, *Time*, April 3, 1995. 221

Technological advances have greatly increased the potential human costs of *terrorism*. Terrible *biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons* are within easy reach of terrorist groups, and American security forces are very concerned.

**D. THE FUTURE**

45. **The Coming Anarchy**, Robert D. Kaplan, *The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1994. 224

Robert Kaplan warns that "disease, *overpopulation*, unprovoked *crime, scarcity* of resources, *refugee* migrations, the increasing erosion of nation-states and international borders, and the empowerment of private armies, security firms, and international drug cartels" are growing problems throughout the world. They are causing *social disorganizations*, and the past changes will be small compared to the ones coming soon.

46. **America and the Twenty-First Century: Will American Democracy Survive?** Bruce D. Porter, *Current*, January 1994. 229

Bruce Porter examines the question of whether or not American *democracy* will survive. *Internal cleavages* are widening, the unifying bond is weakening, *faith in government* is declining, the economy is in turmoil, and American *values* are in crisis. Can democracy survive these crises without a foreign enemy to unite against?

Glossary	233
Index	241
Article Review Form	244
Article Rating Form	245

# Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to students and professionals involved with the study of sociology. It is useful for locating articles that relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
<b>African Americans</b>	27. Whites' Myths about Blacks	<b>Employment</b>	23. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 35. End of the Job
<b>Children/Childhood</b>	2. Mountain People 6. Guns and Dolls 7. Children of the Universe 12. Family in Trouble 24. Poverty's Children	<b>Euthanasia</b>	21. Death with Dignity 36. Life Is Sacred
<b>Community</b>	1. Tribal Wisdom 7. Children of the Universe 17. Crisis of Community 18. Individualism 19. "They Can't Stop Us Now" 24. Poverty's Children	<b>Family/Marriage</b>	2. Mountain People 7. Children of the Universe 11. When Violence Hits Home 12. Family in Trouble 13. Modernizing Marriage 15. Ending the Battle between the Sexes 30. Global War against Women
<b>Crime</b>	8. What to Do about Crime 9. Moral Credibility and Crime 10. Crooked Blue Line 11. When Violence Hits Home 44. Price of Fanaticism	<b>Future</b>	41. Carrying Capacity 45. Coming Anarchy 46. America and the Twenty-First Century
<b>Culture</b>	1. Tribal Wisdom 2. Mountain People 4. De-Moralized Society 5. West's Deepening Cultural Crisis 6. Guns and Dolls 12. Family in Trouble 16. Time for Men to Pull Together 18. Individualism 36. Life Is Sacred	<b>Handicapped</b>	20. "Sociology of Acceptance" for Disabled People
<b>Death</b>	21. Death with Dignity	<b>Immigration</b>	40. New Assault on Immigrants
<b>Democracy</b>	32. Hyperdemocracy 46. America and the Twenty-First Century	<b>Individualism</b>	1. Tribal Wisdom 7. Children of the Universe 18. Individualism
<b>Demography</b>	39. Reassessing the Earth's Population 40. New Assault on Immigrants	<b>Law Enforcement</b>	8. What to Do about Crime 10. Crooked Blue Line 11. When Violence Hits Home 44. Price of Fanaticism 45. Coming Anarchy
<b>Discrimination</b>	20. "Sociology of Acceptance" for Disabled People 27. Whites' Myths about Blacks 28. Affirmative Action 30. Global War against Women	<b>Leadership</b>	29. Longest Climb
<b>Disorganization</b>	45. Coming Anarchy	<b>Leisure</b>	3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans?
<b>Drugs</b>	5. West's Deepening Cultural Crisis	<b>Lifestyles</b>	1. Tribal Wisdom 2. Mountain People 16. Time for Men to Pull Together 18. Individualism 23. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 24. Poverty's Children 38. Counter-Attack of God
<b>Ecology/Environment</b>	2. Mountain People 39. Reassessing the Earth's Population 41. Carrying Capacity 42. Time of Catastrophic Extinction 45. Coming Anarchy	<b>Market/Business</b>	34. Welcome to the Revolution
<b>Economy</b>	22. Inequality 34. Welcome to the Revolution 35. End of the Job 45. Coming Anarchy	<b>Marriage</b>	See Family/Marriage
<b>Education</b>	6. Guns and Dolls 22. Inequality 37. Undergraduate Education in America	<b>Political/Government</b>	25. Upside-Down Welfare 31. Money Changes Everything 32. Hyperdemocracy 33. Death of Common Sense 45. Coming Anarchy 46. America and the Twenty-First Century
		<b>Population Growth</b>	3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans? 39. Reassessing the Earth's Population 41. Carrying Capacity 45. Coming Anarchy

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
<b>Poverty</b>	2. Mountain People 24. Poverty's Children 45. Coming Anarchy	<b>Stratification</b>	23. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 24. Poverty's Children 25. Upside-Down Welfare 26. Welfare 27. Whites' Myths about Blacks 28. Affirmative Action 29. Longest Climb 30. Global War against Women 32. Hyperdemocracy
<b>Race/Ethnic Relations</b>	17. Crisis of Community 27. Whites' Myths about Blacks 28. Affirmative Action	<b>Technology</b>	43. Alone Together 44. Price of Fanaticism
<b>Regulations</b>	33. Death of Common Sense	<b>Terrorism</b>	44. Price of Fanaticism
<b>Religion</b>	38. Counter-Attack of God	<b>Underclass</b>	24. Poverty's Children 26. Welfare
<b>Roles</b>	6. Guns and Dolls 15. Ending the Battle between the Sexes 16. Time for Men to Pull Together	<b>Unemployment</b>	See Work/Unemployment
<b>Sex Roles</b>	6. Guns and Dolls 15. Ending the Battle between the Sexes 16. Time for Men to Pull Together 29. Longest Climb	<b>Upper Class</b>	25. Upside-Down Welfare 29. Longest Climb
<b>Sexism</b>	30. Global War against Women	<b>Values</b>	1. Tribal Wisdom 2. Mountain People 5. West's Deepening Cultural Crisis 12. Family in Trouble 14. Truth about Americans and Sex 16. Time for Men to Pull Together 17. Crisis of Community 18. Individualism 36. Life Is Sacred 38. Counter-Attack of God
<b>Sexual Practices</b>	14. Truth about Americans and Sex	<b>Violence</b>	5. West's Deepening Cultural Crisis 8. What to Do about Crime 11. When Violence Hits Home 44. Price of Fanaticism
<b>Social Change</b>	2. Mountain People 3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans? 4. De-Moralized Society 5. West's Deepening Cultural Crisis 13. Modernizing Marriage 20. "Sociology of Acceptance" for Disabled People 21. Death with Dignity 32. Hyperdemocracy 34. Welcome to the Revolution 35. End of the Job 45. Coming Anarchy	<b>Volunteerism</b>	19. "They Can't Stop Us Now"
<b>Social Class</b>	22. Inequality	<b>Wealth</b>	23. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere
<b>Social Control</b>	4. De-Moralized Society 7. Children of the Universe 8. What to Do about Crime 9. Moral Credibility and Crime 10. Crooked Blue Line 12. Family in Trouble 45. Coming Anarchy	<b>Welfare</b>	25. Upside-Down Welfare 26. Welfare
<b>Social Relationships</b>	2. Mountain People 4. De-Moralized Society 12. Family in Trouble 13. Modernizing Marriage 15. Ending the Battle between the Sexes 16. Time for Men to Pull Together 30. Global War against Women	<b>Women</b>	6. Guns and Dolls 7. Children of the Universe 11. When Violence Hits Home 15. Ending the Battle between the Sexes 29. Longest Climb 30. Global War against Women
<b>Socialization</b>	6. Guns and Dolls 7. Children of the Universe 12. Family in Trouble	<b>Work/Unemployment</b>	3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans? 23. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 26. Welfare 34. Welcome to the Revolution 35. End of the Job 43. Alone Together



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# Culture

- **Tribal Cultures and Their Lessons for Us (Articles 1 and 2)**
- **Forces Shaping Cultures and Lifestyles (Articles 3 and 4)**
- **Cultural Crises: Moral Decline and a Perverse Culture (Article 5)**

The ordinary, everyday objects of living and the daily routines of life provide a structure to social life that is regularly punctuated by festivals, celebrations, and other special events (both happy and sad). Both routine and special times are the “stuff” of culture, for culture is the sum total of all the elements of one’s social inheritance. Culture includes language, tools, values, habits, science, religion, literature, and art.

It is easy to take one’s own culture for granted, so it is useful to pause and reflect on the shared beliefs and practices that form the foundations for our social life. Students share beliefs and practices and thus have a student culture. Obviously the faculty has one also. Students, faculty, and administrators share a university culture. At the national level, Americans share an American culture. These cultures change over time and especially between generations. As a result, there is much variety among cultures across time and across nations, tribes, and groups. It is fascinating to study these differences and to compare the dominant values and signature patterns of different groups.

The two articles in the first subsection deal with primitive cultures that are under considerable stress today. The Iik tribe, reported on by Colin Turnbull, suffered the loss of their tribal lands and were forced to live in a harsh environment. When a society’s technology is very primitive, its environment has a profound impact on its social structure and culture. We would expect, therefore, that this momentous change in the tribe’s environment would require some interesting adaptations. The change that occurred, however, was shocking. Literally all aspects of life changed for the tribe’s members, in a disturbingly sinister way. Moreover, the experience of this tribe leads Turnbull to question some of the individualistic tendencies of America. David Maybury-Lewis challenges our sense of cultural superiority by demonstrating the wisdom of tribal patterns compared to our modern lifestyles. Tribal societies value people, but modern societies value things. The reader probably will not abandon his or her lifestyle after reading this article, but he or she should have a lot more respect for tribal societies.

In the next subsection, Jeff Davidson looks at some major trends in American society and explores their impact on American culture and lifestyles. Longer working hours, population growth, the knowledge explosion, the growth of the media, the steady growth of paper trails, and the overabundance of choices are overwhelming Americans. Their leisure time is reduced, their attention is more fractured, and they feel more overwhelmed. The author ends up recommending that the only way to live more fully is to exclude more from one’s life and live more simply.

Gertrude Himmelfarb warns about a more ominous trend, the increase in such negative social indicators as the crime, illegitimacy, and divorce rates. These increases cannot be explained by worsening economic conditions, but rather by two trends. First, much that once was considered as abnormal or illegitimate has become accepted as normal and legitimate. Second, American society has abandoned moral judgments. “Most of us are uncomfortable with the idea of making moral judgments even in our private lives, let alone with the intrusion of moral judgments into public affairs,” the author declares.

The remaining articles of the unit continue Himmelfarb’s theme that American culture is in crisis. Richard Eckersley also identifies a cultural crisis in America (and the West) that is indicated by psychological problems, drug problems, crime rates, and the pessimism of young people. He attributes this crisis to the scientific worldview, the accelerating rate of change, the disbelief in progress, and the corrosive effects of images projected by the mass media.

## Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

What do you think are the core values in American society?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of cultures that emphasize either cooperation or individualism?

What is the relationship between culture and identity?

What might a visitor from a primitive tribe describe as shocking and barbaric about American society?



# Tribal wisdom

*Is it too late for us to reclaim the benefits of tribal living?*

David Maybury-Lewis

**T**ribal people hold endless fascination for us moderns. We imagine them as exotics trapped in a lyrical past, or as charming anachronisms embarking on the inevitable course toward modernity. What few of us realize is that tribal peoples have not tried (and failed) to be like us, but have actually chosen to live differently. It is critical that we examine the roads they took that we did not; only then can we get a clear insight into the choices we ourselves make and the price we pay for them—alienation, loneliness, disintegrating families, ecological destruction, spiritual famishment. Only then can we consider the possibility of modifying some of those choices to enrich our lives.

In studying tribal societies, as I have for 30 years, we learn that there is no single “tribal” way of life—I use the word here as a kind of shorthand to refer to small-scale, preindustrial societies that live in comparative isolation and manage their affairs without a central authority such as the state. But however diverse, such societies do share certain characteristics that make them different from “modern” societies. By studying the dramatic contrasts between these two kinds of societies, we see vividly the consequences of modernization and industrialization. Modernization has changed our thinking about every facet of our lives, from family relationships to spirituality to our importance as individuals. Has ours been the road best traveled?

## Strange relations

The heart of the difference between the modern world and the traditional one is that in traditional societies people are a valuable resource and the interrelations between them are carefully tended; in modern society

things are the valuables and people are all too often treated as disposable.

In the modern world we shroud our interdependency in an ideology of independence. We focus on individuals, going it alone in the economic sphere, rather than persons, interconnected in the social sphere. As French anthropologist Marcel Mauss put it, “It is our Western societies that have recently turned man into an economic animal.” What happened?

A truly revolutionary change—a social revolution centering on the rights of the individual—swept Western Europe during the Renaissance and eventually came to dominate and define the modern world. While traditional societies had denounced individualism as anti-social, in Western Europe a belief in the rights and dignity of the individual slowly came to be regarded as the most important aspect of society itself.

The glorification of the individual, this focus on the dignity and rights of the individual, this severing of the obligations to kin and community that support and constrain the individual in traditional societies—all this was the sociological equivalent of splitting the atom. It unleashed the human energy and creativity that enabled people to make extraordinary technical advances and to accumulate undreamed-of wealth.

But we have paid a price for our success. The ever-expanding modern economy is a driven economy, one that survives by creating new needs so that people will consume more. Ideally, under the mechanics of this system, people should have unlimited needs so that the economy can expand forever, and advertising exists to convince them of just that.

The driven economy is accompanied by a restless and driven society. In the United States, for example, the educational system teaches children to be competitive and tries to instill in them the hunger for personal achievement. As adults, the most driven people are rewarded by status. Other human capabilities—for