

Introduction to

SOCIOLOGY

third edition

ANTHONY GIDDENS

MITCHELL DUNEIER





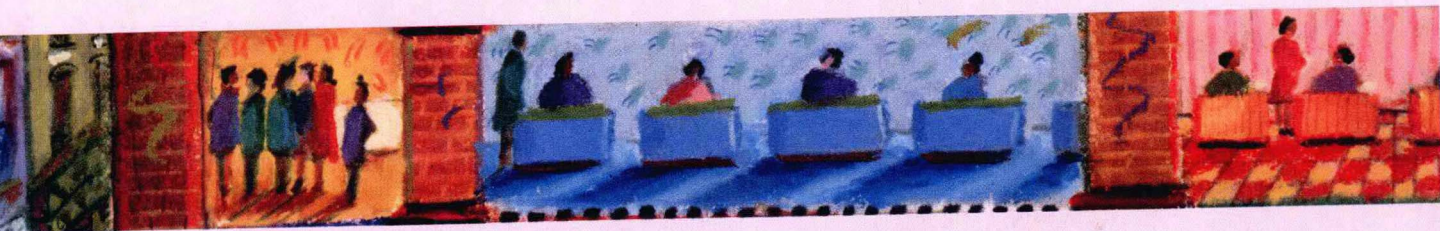

Introduction to SOCIOLOGY

THIRD EDITION

MITCHELL DUNEIER

university of wisconsin-madison
and university of california, santa barbara

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PREFACE

This book was written in the belief that sociology has a key role to play in modern intellectual culture and a central place within the social sciences. Our aim has been to write a book that combines some originality with an analysis of all the basic issues of interest to sociologists today. In many places, we attempt to bring the reader into a subject through the use of ethnographies written for this book. The book does not try to introduce overly sophisticated notions; nevertheless, ideas and findings drawn from the cutting edge of the discipline are incorporated throughout. We hope it is not a partisan treatment; we endeavored to cover the major perspectives in sociology and the major findings of contemporary American research in an even-handed, although not indiscriminate, way.

MAJOR THEMES

The book is constructed around a number of basic themes, each of which helps to give the work a distinctive character. One main theme is that of the

world in change. Sociology was born of the transformations that wrenched the industrializing social order of the West away from the ways of life characteristic of preceding societies. The world that was created by these changes is the primary object of concern of sociological analysis. The pace of social change has continued to accelerate, and it is possible that we stand on the threshold of transitions as significant as those that occurred in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sociology has prime responsibility for charting the transformations that have taken place in the past and for grasping the major lines of development taking place today.

A second fundamental theme of the book is the *globalizing of social life*. For far too long, sociology has been dominated by the view that societies can be studied as independent unities. But even in the past, societies have never really existed in isolation. In current times, we can see a clear acceleration in processes of global integration. This is obvious, for example, in the expansion of international trade across the world. The emphasis on globalization also connects closely with the weight given to the interdependence of First and Third Worlds today.

Third, the book takes a strongly *comparative* stance. The study of sociology cannot be taught solely by understanding the institutions of any one particular society. While we have slanted the discussion toward the United States, such discussion is always balanced by a rich variety of materials drawn from other cultures. These include researches carried out in other Western countries, but we also refer often to Russia and the Eastern European societies, which are currently undergoing substantial changes. The book also includes much more material on Third World countries than has been usual hitherto in introductions of sociology. In addition, we strongly emphasize the relationship between sociology and anthropology, whose concerns overlap comprehensively. Given the close connections that now mesh societies across the world with one another, and the virtual disappearance of traditional social systems, sociology and anthropology increasingly become indistinguishable.

A fourth theme is the necessity of taking a *historical approach* to sociology. This involves more than just filling in the historical context within which events occur. One of the most important developments in sociology over the past few years has been an increasing emphasis on historical analysis. This should be under-

stood not solely as applying a sociological outlook to the past, but as a way of contributing to our understanding of institutions in the present. Recent work in historical sociology is discussed throughout, and provides a framework for the interpretations offered within most of the chapters.

Fifth, particular attention is given throughout the text to *issues of gender*. The study of gender is ordinarily regarded as a specific field within sociology as a whole—and this volume contains a chapter that specifically explores thinking and research on the subject (Chapter 8). However, questions about gender relations are so fundamental to sociological analysis that they cannot simply be considered a subdivision. Thus, many chapters contain sections concerned with issues of gender.

A sixth theme is the *micro and macro link*. In many places in the book, we show that interaction in micro-level contexts affects larger social processes and that such macro-level processes influence our day-to-day lives. We emphasize to readers that one can better understand a social situation by analyzing it at both the micro- and macro-level.

A seventh theme is the relation between the *social* and the *personal*. Sociological thinking is a vital help to self-understanding, which in turn can be focused back on an improved understanding of the social world. Studying sociology should be a liberating experience: the field enlarges our sympathies and imagination, opens up new perspectives on the sources of our own behavior, and creates an awareness of cultural settings different from our own. Insofar as sociological ideas challenge dogma, teach appreciation of cultural variety, and allow us insight into the working of social institutions, the practice of sociology enhances the possibilities of human freedom.

ORGANIZATION

There is very little abstract discussion of basic sociological concepts at the beginning of this book. Instead, concepts are explained when they are introduced in the relevant chapters, and we have sought throughout to illustrate them by means of concrete examples. While these are usually taken from sociological research, we have often used material from other sources (such as newspaper reports). We have tried to

keep the writing style as simple and direct as possible, while endeavoring to make the book lively and full of surprises.

The chapters follow a sequence designed to help achieve a progressive mastery of the different fields of sociology, but we have taken care to ensure that the book can be used flexibly and is easy to adapt to the needs of individual courses. Chapters can be deleted, or studied in a different order, without much loss. Each has been written as a fairly autonomous unit, with cross-referencing to other chapters at relevant points.

STUDY AIDS

The chapters in this book have been carefully structured to make the learning process as entertaining yet systematic as possible. Each begins with a chapter organizer, which highlights the learning objectives of each section and allows students to preview that chapter's discussion. Throughout the chapter appear several "Key Concepts in Review" boxes. These boxes enable students to review the important terms and concepts discussed in the preceding section, ensuring that they know the basic concepts the following discussion builds upon. In addition, whenever a new term is first mentioned in the text itself, it is printed in boldface. All major concepts and terms are included in the glossary at the end of the text.

Another helpful aid is the use of a global icon to indicate examples of the changing world or the globalization process, or comparisons of U.S. society with other societies. Social change, the globalization of social life, and comparative analysis are all important themes of this text. The icon will help alert readers to discussions of these themes.



FURTHER RESEARCH: READING AND LIBRARIES

Libraries contain abundant sources of information that can be used to follow up or expand on issues discussed here. References are given throughout the text and listed fully in the Bibliography at the end. Also,

we have included a short appendix that provides a guide to library resources and how to use them.

Acknowledgments

During the writing of both editions of this book, many individuals offered comments and advice on particular chapters and, in some cases, large parts of the text. They helped us see issues in a different light, clarified some difficult points, and allowed us to take advantage of their specialist knowledge in their respective fields. We are deeply indebted to them.

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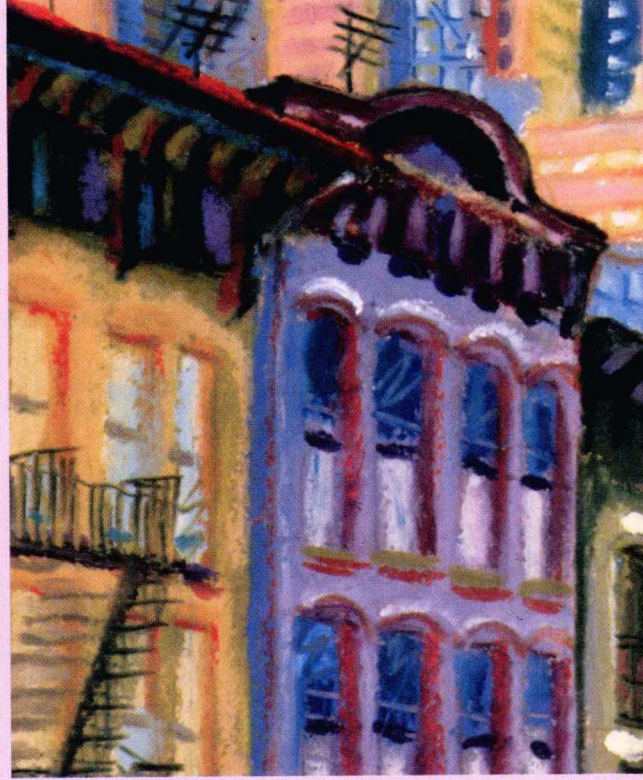
PART ONE

the study of sociology

We live in a world today that is increasingly more complex. Why are the conditions of our lives so different from those of earlier times? How will our lives change in the future? These are the types of questions that lead us to the study of sociology. Throughout your reading of this text, you will encounter examples from different people's lives that will help us to answer these important questions.

In Chapter 1, we begin to explore the scope of sociology and learn what sort of insights the field can bring to our lives. Among these insights are the development of a global perspective and an understanding of social change. Sociology is not a subject with a body of theories everyone agrees on. As in any complex field, the questions we raise allow for different answers. In this chapter, we compare and contrast different theoretical traditions.

Chapter 2 is an exploration of the tools of the trade, how sociologists set about doing



research. A number of basic methods of investigation are available to help us find out what is going on in the social world. We must be sure that the information upon which sociological reasoning is based is as reliable and accurate as possible. The chapter examines the problems with gathering such information and indicates how they are best dealt with.

Chapter One



Learn what sociology covers as a field and how everyday topics like love and romance are shaped by social and historical forces.

Developing a Sociological Perspective

Recognize that sociology is more than just acquiring knowledge; it also involves developing a sociological imagination. Learn that studying sociology leads us to see that we construct society through our actions and are constructed by it. See that our actions have both intended and unintended consequences. Understand that two of the most important components of the sociological imagination are developing a global perspective and understanding social change.

The Development of Sociological Thinking

Learn how sociology originated and how it developed. Think about the theoretical issues that frame the study of sociology. Be able to name some of the leading social theorists and the concepts they contributed to the study of sociology. Learn the different theoretical approaches modern sociologists bring to the field.

Is Sociology a Science?

Learn how sociology is similar to and different from natural sciences.

How Can Sociology Help Us in Our Lives?

See the practical implications that sociology has for our lives.

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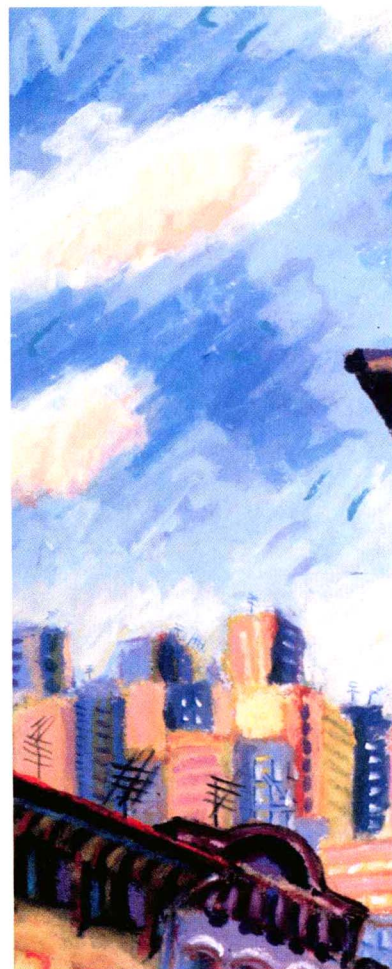
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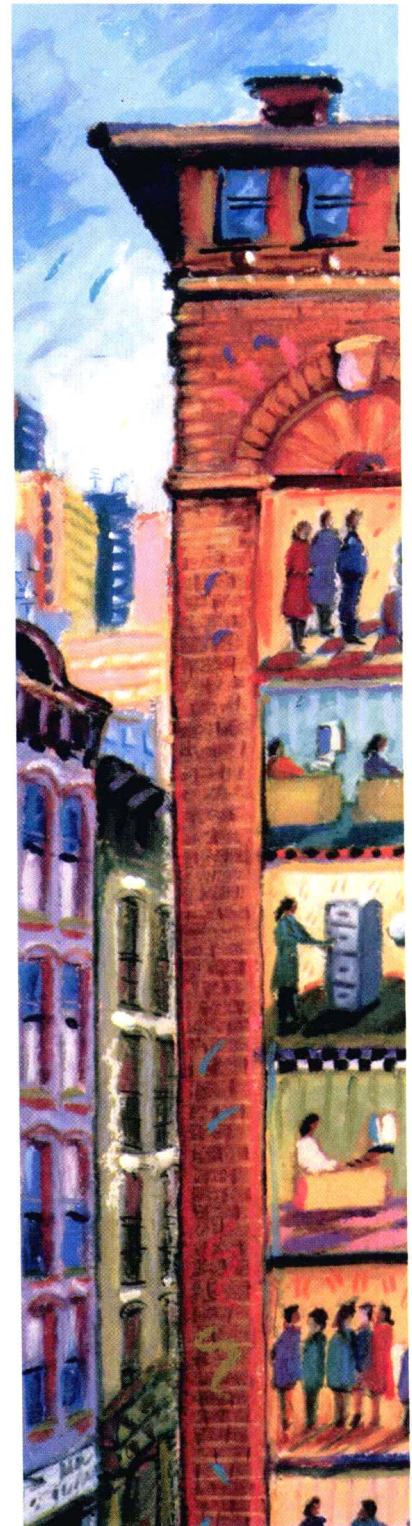
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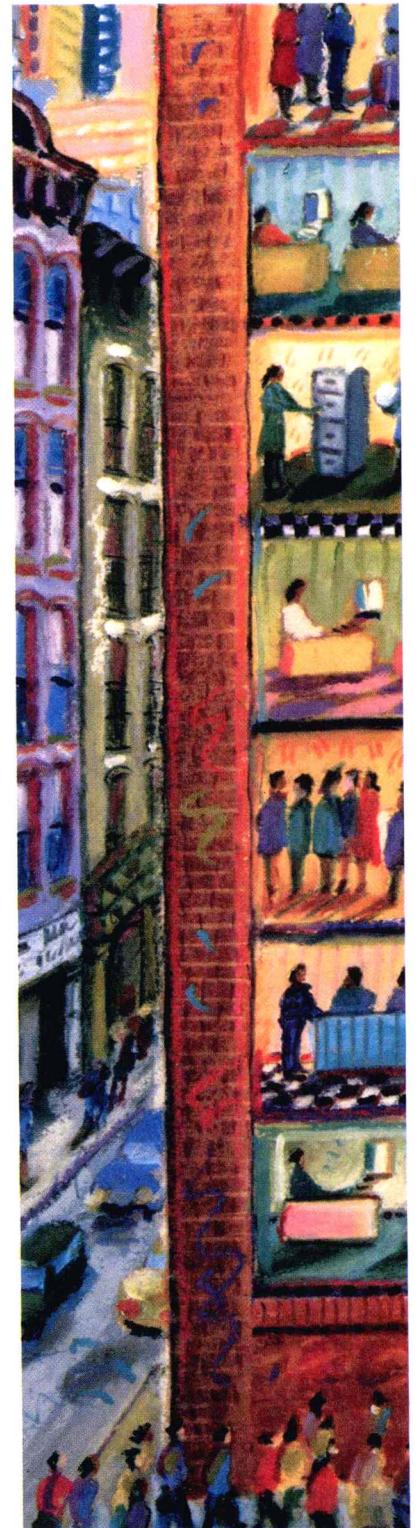
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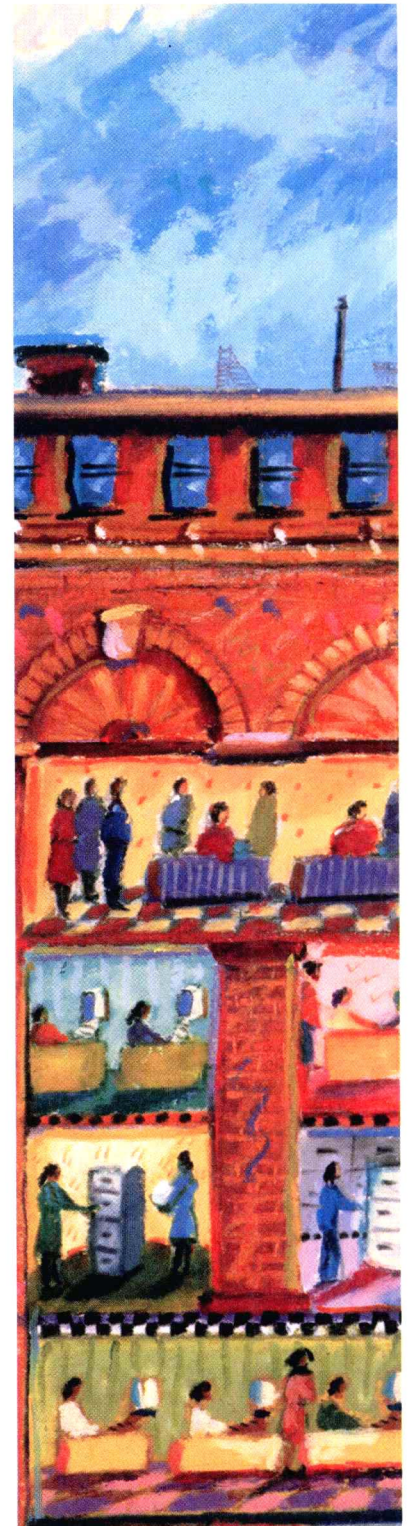
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