

The
**Sociological
Outlook**



A
Text
with
Readings

7th
Edition

Reid Luhman



THE SOCIOLOGICAL OUTLOOK

A TEXT WITH READINGS

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PREFACE

This Seventh Edition of *The Sociological Outlook* incorporates a number of changes, many included in direct response to the suggestions of students and faculty who worked their way through the Sixth Edition. I felt that statistics needed updating, which I did, and that some Readings were outdated or no longer relevant. Change for the sake of change has not been the guiding rule. The “classics” of sociology remain, and the current status of society is reflected in current statistics. Themes of gender and inequality remain interwoven throughout the Seventh Edition. Inequality was a major theme in the Sixth Edition and still receives the attention of an entire chapter. Gender issues play a major role in the institutions chapters while receiving additional attention in other chapters, receiving a major update in Chapter 6. And to aid the student in coping with all this material, chapters now contain study questions that provide the reader with a substantive checklist of important chapter content.

The readings, which follow each chapter, retain the best selections from the first six editions. In addition, some outstanding new articles appear for the first time. As with the earlier editions, I selected all readings with regard to intrinsic interest to students and readability as well as sociological content; all are designed to add color and life to material presented before them in each chapter. Five readings written specifically for the first six editions (those by Gilham, Murai, Thompson, Winther, and Isaacs) have been retained because students responded to them with great interest and enthusiasm. New readings have been added on a variety of topics. In Chapter 6, O'Reilly and Vella-Zarb's “Meet the Future” introduces us to the millennial generation—those coming of age in the year 2000 in the United States. An addition to Chapter 9 by Kenneth Boulding—“The Meaning of the Twentieth Century: The Great Transition”—offers a global view of societal change faced by the millennial generation. Chapter 11 contains two new readings. In “There's Something Happening Here,” Jerry Useem explores the globalization of the world's economy and the protest movements that have formed in its wake. Gregg Easterbrook, in “Faith Healers,” takes us on an interesting exploration of the role of religious faith in maintaining good health.

An important note to instructors: I have tried to organize this book in a somewhat traditional and comfortable manner for instructors. At the same time, I realize that every instructor has his or her unique style and approach. Keeping this variety of needs in

mind, I have built considerable (and I hope subtle) flexibility into this book. Many chapters can be reordered without breaking the flow; important concepts are defined several places throughout the book so that students who missed a first appearance (if a chapter was not assigned) will not become lost. In a similar vein, chapters can be omitted without leaving students confused. Perhaps most important, I have selected readings that serve multiple functions; for many of them, it was difficult to decide which chapter provided the most suitable home. Thompson's article on the black family, for example, is just as suitable for the chapter on race and ethnicity as it is for its current home in the institutional look at family and education. The article by Brende for Chapter 9 also works with Chapters 8 and 10. The reading by Wilson following Chapter 13, on the Los Angeles riots following the Rodney King trial, is relevant to collective behavior but applies to many other areas of sociology as well. If you decide not to cover a chapter in your course, please do not overlook the readings that reside there, as you may well have use for them elsewhere. For instance, the Gabler article on urban myths (Chapter 13) could also be read in conjunction with Chapter 3.

Instructors should also be aware that the Test Files for this book are available on computer disks for both IBM Compatible and Macintosh computers. This should make life easier for both you and/or your assistants. Contact Collegiate Press if have not already received them.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A large number of people have contributed their time and skill to this book. In particular, many important suggestions and criticisms were offered by Vance Wisenbaker concerning Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 12; by Aaron Thompson concerning Chapters 8 and 10; by John Curra concerning Chapters 5, 6 and 13; by John Denton concerning Chapter 6; by Marc Goldstein concerning Chapter 5; by Alan Banks concerning Chapters 7 and 9, and by Shirley Harkess concerning Chapter 6. Much additional help was provided by my colleagues Paul Winther, Steve Savage, Gunseli Tamkoc, Dick Futrell, Doug Burnham, and Amiya Mohanty. Valuable secretarial assistance was provided by Cathy Newsome, Carol Lane, Shannon Brian, and Toni Garlick.

This book would not have been possible without considerable work at the publishing end. Jackie Estrada oversaw the editorial process and made it as painless as possible for me. Chris Davis came up with a pleasing and clear graphic design and handled the electronic production. Paul Slick exercised his considerable creative talents in producing the cover design.

Valuable suggestions and criticisms of earlier editions of this book were contributed by sociologists at several institutions around the country. They were Richard S. Bobys, Morningside College; Marion Dearman, California State University, Los Angeles; Jeanne G. Gobalet, San Jose City College; Laura Gordon, Montclair State College; William Kenkel, University of Kentucky; Arnold J. Kuhn, Wilbur Wright College; Carol Lewis, Jefferson Community College; Reece McGee, Purdue University; Don Metz, Marquette University; John S. Miller, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Rita Phyllis Sakitt, Suffolk County Community College; and Richard Voorhees, Inver Hills Community College.

After it was printed, the Sixth Edition of this book received extensive and extremely useful reviews from both teachers and students who worked with it. The effort put forth

on this process by those involved proved to be of invaluable help in making the Seventh Edition better meet the needs of the people in classrooms where it is used. The list of those comprising the Editorial Board for *The Sociological Outlook*, Seventh Edition, appears right after this Preface.

Finally, no one lived more closely with this project than the members of my immediate family. My wife, Susan, not only showed great patience with the process of writing but also offered very valuable help through reading the manuscript and letting me know when my writing style was getting either boring or confusing (and often both). Her constant encouragement plays a major role in all that I do. My children, Chad and Sara, have grown up with the different editions of this book, changing from having objections to my overly occupied time on the first edition to becoming interested in what I've been writing all these years. And now my grandchildren, Tyler and Joysha, are reading and learning to read respectively. This edition is dedicated to them with gratitude for their current company and high hopes for their futures.

Reid Luhman
February 2001

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