

SECOND EDITION

SOURCES

*Notable
Selections in*
Sociology

KURT FINSTERBUSCH

JANET S. SCHWARTZ

S E C O N D E D I T I O N

SOURCES

Notable Selections in Sociology

Edited by

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University of Maryland

JANET S. SCHWARTZ

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We dedicate this book to John, Alec, Ned, Joe, David, Neil, Katy, and Adam. We have tried to pass the best part of ourselves onto them, even as profound, important, and fascinating ideas are passed from generation to generation in *Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology*.

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SECOND EDITION

SOURCES

Notable Selections in Sociology



About the Editors

KURT FINSTERBUSCH received his bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University in 1957 and a 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 *Understanding Social Impacts* (Sage Publications, 1980) and *Organizational Change as a Development Strategy* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1987), and the coauthor, with Annabelle Bender Motz, of *Social Research for Policy Decisions* (Wadsworth, 1980). He is currently a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, College Park, and he is the academic editor of *Annual Editions: Sociology* and of *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues* (now entering its ninth edition), both published by Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publishers.

JANET S. SCHWARTZ received her bachelor's degree in sociology from City College of New York in 1952, a master's degree in organizational behavior from Cornell University in 1961, and a doctorate in sociology from Cornell University in 1967. From 1967 to 1983, she taught and conducted research in the sociology departments for Wells College in New York, George Mason University in Virginia, the University of Maryland, and the American University in Washington, D.C. She currently does research and consulting work as an independent sociologist, and her research interests and writings center around the Soviet Union and East European societies, especially on work and organizations, civil-military relations, and social stratification.

Preface

The subject matter of sociology is ourselves—people interacting with one another in groups. Sociologists seek to understand in a systematic and scientific way the social behavior of human beings and human arrangements. Sociologists question seemingly familiar and commonplace aspects of our social lives, and offer novel and surprising answers. To study sociology is to explore society in new and dynamic ways.

Sociology is a form of scientific inquiry that gives us the intellectual tools for understanding our world more profoundly. As a discipline, sociology has evolved its own history of ideas and thinkers, research methods, and theories. In this volume, we have put directly into your hands those researchers and writers whose works have enduring value for the study of society.

Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology brings together 47 selections (classic articles, book excerpts, and case studies) that have shaped the study of society and our contemporary understanding of it. We have included the works of distinguished sociological observers, past and present, from Marx and Engels on class to Merton on deviance to Goffman on the presentation of self and Wallerstein on the world economic system. The selections also reflect the long-standing tradition in sociology of incorporating useful insights from related disciplines. Thus, the volume includes contributions by anthropologists, political scientists, psychologists, ecologists, and economists.

Each selection was chosen because, in our opinion, it has helped shape the sociological inquiry or is a profound description and analysis of a current sociological issue. For this second edition, we have replaced some of the classics that appeared in the first edition because profound social changes have reduced their applicability. In their place we have added recent selections that have not stood the test of time but that do represent a strand of current thinking that deserves consideration. In all, 26 of the 47 selections are new.

Each selection contains essential ideas used in the sociological enterprise or has served as some kind of a touchstone for other scholars. As a whole, *Sources* is designed to be an accessible, reasonably comprehensive introduction to sociological classics. We have tried to select readings across a broad spectrum, i.e., the ideas, insights, and themes presented in these selections are not necessarily limited to a particular society. Accordingly, they should enable students to analyze the behaviors and institutions of many nations.

Plan of the book These selections are well suited to courses that attempt to convey the richness of the sociological perspective and require more than a superficial grasp of major sociological concepts and theories. The selections are organized topically around the major areas of study within sociology: the selec-

tions in Part 1 introduce the sociological perspective; Part 2, the individual and society; Part 3, stratification; Part 4, social institutions; and Part 5, society and social change. Each selection is preceded by a headnote that establishes the relevance of the selection and provides biographical information on the author.

A word to the instructor An *Instructor's Manual With Test Questions* (multiple-choice and essay) is available through the publisher for the instructor using *Sources* in the classroom.

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We welcome your comments and observations about the selections in this volume and encourage you to write to us with suggestions for other selections to include or changes to consider. Please send your remarks to us in care of Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publishers, Sluice Dock, Guilford, CT 06437.

Kurt Finsterbusch
University of Maryland

Janet S. Schwartz

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1.2 **C. WRIGHT MILLS**, from *The Sociological Imagination* 8

"The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals."

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"To the insistent human query 'why?' the most exciting illumination anthropology has to offer is that of the concept of culture. Its explanatory importance is comparable to categories such as evolution in biology, gravity in physics, disease in medicine."

2.2 HORACE MINER, from "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema,"
American Anthropologist 21

"The fundamental belief underlying the whole system appears to be that the human body is ugly and that its natural tendency is to debility and disease. Incarcerated in such a body, man's only hope is to avert these characteristics through the use of the powerful influences of ritual and ceremony."

2.3 COLIN M. TURNBULL, from *The Mountain People* 26

"The Ik teach us that our much vaunted human values are not inherent in humanity at all but are associated only with a particular form of survival called society and that all, even society itself, are luxuries that can be dispensed with."

2.4 ELIJAH ANDERSON, from "The Code of the Streets," *The Atlantic Monthly* 36

"The code revolves around the presentation of self. Its basic requirement is the display of a certain predisposition to violence. Accordingly, one's bearing must send the unmistakable if sometimes subtle message to 'the next person' in public that one is capable of violence and mayhem when the situation requires it, that one can take care of oneself."

2.5 DEBORAH TANNEN, from *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* 46

"The sociolinguistic approach I take . . . shows that many frictions arise because boys and girls grow up in what are essentially different cultures, so talk between women and men is cross-cultural communication."

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3.1 GEORGE HERBERT MEAD, from *Mind, Self and Society* 51

"The individual experiences himself as such, not directly, but only indirectly, from the particular standpoints of other individual members of the same social group, or from the generalized standpoint of the social group as a whole to which he belongs."

3.2 MARGARET L. ANDERSEN, from *Thinking About Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender* 57

"Although some of us conform more than others, socialization acts as a powerful system of social control. The conflicts we encounter when we try to cross or deny the boundaries between the sexes are good evidence of the strength of gender expectations in our culture."

3.3 ELEANOR E. MACCOBY, from "Gender and Relationships: A Developmental Account," *American Psychologist* 67

"[D]uring this formative two-year period just before school entry, boys were becoming less and less responsive to polite suggestions, so that the style being progressively adopted by girls was progressively less effective with boys. Girls' influence style was effective with each other and was well adapted to interaction with teachers and other adults."

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[Role theory] tells us that man plays dramatic parts in the grand play of society, and that, speaking sociologically, he is the masks that he must wear to do so. . . . The person is perceived as a repertoire of roles, each one properly equipped with a certain identity."

4.2 ERVING GOFFMAN, from *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* 82

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CHAPTER 5 Deviance and Social Control 91

5.1 ROBERT K. MERTON, from *Social Theory and Social Structure* 91

"Contemporary American culture appears to approximate the polar type in which great emphasis upon certain success-goals occurs with equivalent emphasis upon institutional means."

5.2 DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, from "Defining Deviancy Down," *The American Scholar* 102

"[W]e in the United States . . . have been re-defining deviancy so as to exempt much conduct previously stigmatized, and also quietly raising the 'normal' level in categories where behavior is now abnormal by any earlier standard."

5.3 STANLEY MILGRAM, from "Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority," *Human Relations* 109

"With numbing regularity good people were seen to knuckle under the demands of authority and perform actions that were callous and severe. Men who in everyday life are responsible and decent were seduced by the trappings of authority, by the control of their perceptions, and by the uncritical acceptance of the experimenter's definition of the situation, into performing harsh acts."

**5.4 JAMES Q. WILSON, from "What to Do About Crime,"
Commentary 121**

"There are only two restraints on behavior—morality, enforced by individual conscience or social rebuke, and law, enforced by the police and the courts. If society is to maintain a behavioral equilibrium, any decline in the former must be matched by a rise in the latter (or vice versa)."

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6.1 CHARLES HORTON COOLEY, from *Social Organization* 131

"By primary groups I mean those characterized by intimate face-to-face association and cooperation. They are primary in several senses, but chiefly in that they are fundamental in forming the social nature and ideals of the individual. The result of intimate association, psychologically, is a certain fusion of individualities in a common whole."

6.2 ROBERT D. PUTNAM, from "The Prosperous Community: Social Capital and Public Life," *The American Prospect* 135

" '[S]ocial capital' refers to features of social organization, such as networks, norms, and trust, that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. Social capital enhances the benefits of investment in physical and human capital."

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"The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones."

7.2 KINGSLEY DAVIS AND WILBERT E. MOORE, from "Some Principles of Stratification," *American Sociological Review* 155

"Social inequality is thus an unconsciously evolved device by which societies insure that the most important positions are conscientiously filled by the most qualified persons."

7.3 GERHARD LENSKI, from "New Light on Old Issues: The Relevance of 'Really Existing Socialist Societies' for Stratification Theory," in

"[S]uccessful incentive systems involve (1) motivating the best qualified people to seek the most important positions and (2) motivating them to perform to the best of their ability once they are in them. Marxist societies seem to have failed on both counts, using political criteria primarily both to allocate positions and to reward incumbents."

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8.2 HERBERT J. GANS, from "Positive Functions of the Undeserving Poor: Uses of the Underclass in America," *Politics and Society* 175

"By being thought undeserving, the stigmatized poor can be blamed for virtually any shortcoming of everyday life which can be credibly ascribed to them."

8.3 ELLIOT LIEBOW, from *Tell Them Who I Am: The Lives of Homeless Women* 183

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"[W]e argue that both the black delay in marriage and the lower rate of remarriage, each of which is associated with high percentages of out-of-wedlock births and female-headed households, can be directly tied to the labor-market status of black males. As we have documented, black women, especially young black women, are facing a shrinking pool of 'marriageable' (i.e., economically stable) men."

9.2 JUDITH LORBER, from *Paradoxes of Gender* 206

"Although modern industrialized workplaces have different segregation patterns, one type of sorting is endemic: *Almost every workplace in modern industrial societies is either gender-segregated or all one gender.*"

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- 10.1 PETER F. DRUCKER**, from "Really Reinventing Government," *The Atlantic Monthly* 219

"[A]ny organization, whether a business, a nonprofit, or a government agency, needs to rethink itself once it is more than forty or fifty years old."

- 10.2 JOHN P. HEINZ ET AL.**, from *The Hollow Core: Private Interests in National Policy Making* 228

"Contrary to assertions that mediating elites integrate the demands of conflicting interest groups, we found that the networks of representatives are arranged in spheres of hollow cores."

- 10.3 MARVIN J. CETRON AND OWEN DAVIES**, from "The Future Face of Terrorism," *The Futurist* 237

"Easy access to biological, chemical, and nuclear technologies will bring many new players to the game of destruction."

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- 11.1 ROSABETH MOSS KANTER, BARRY A. STEIN, AND TODD D. JICK**, from *The Challenge of Organizational Change: How Companies Experience It and Leaders Guide It* 246

"Every large and complex organization has many thousands of people who have each day the opportunity, or are literally required, to take action on something. We think of these as 'choice points.' For an organization to succeed, in any long-run sense, these millions of choices must be more or less appropriate and constructive, day in and day out."

- 11.2 MARK DOWIE**, from "Pinto Madness," *Mother Jones* 255

"[W]hen J. C. Echold, Director of Automotive Safety . . . for Ford wrote to the Department of Transportation . . . he felt secure attaching a memorandum that in effect says it is acceptable to kill 180 people and burn another 180 every year, even though we have the technology that could save their lives for \$11 a car."

- 11.3 CHARLES PERROW**, from "Accidents in High-Risk Systems," *Technology Studies* 266

"Accidents are inevitable and happen all the time; serious ones are inevitable though infrequent; catastrophes are inevitable, but extremely rare. Complex interactions and tight coupling make serious accidents inevitable, a property of the system, but a 'system accident,' the unexpected interaction

of multiple failures that can defeat the safety systems, is still an unusual combination."

CHAPTER 12 The Family 274

12.1 LEON EISENBERG, from "Is the Family Obsolete?" *The Key Reporter* 274

"The universality of the family in every society testifies that it meets essential human needs: to love and be wanted, to give rise to children, to rear them until they become independent, and to preserve property rights. Are modern families adequate to these tasks?"

12.2 KATHLEEN GERSON, from "Coping With Commitment: Dilemmas and Conflicts of Family Life," in Alan Wolfe, ed., *America at Century's End* 281

"In sum, exposure to expanded opportunities outside the home (for example, upward employment mobility) and unanticipated insecurities within it (for example, marital instability or economic squeezes in the household) tends to promote a nondomestic orientation even among women who once planned for full-time motherhood. Exposure to a more traditional package of opportunities and constraints (such as constricted employment options and stable marriage) tends, in contrast, to promote a domestic orientation, even among those who felt ambivalent toward motherhood and domesticity as children."

12.3 PETER L. BERGER AND HANSFRIED KELLNER, from "Marriage and the Construction of Reality," *Diogenes* 290

"Marriage in our society is a dramatic act in which two strangers come together and redefine themselves."

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"Jonestown . . . successfully 'devoured' its members by making total claims on them and by encompassing their whole personality. . . . [I]t succeeded not merely in totally absorbing members within its boundaries but in reducing them to human pulp."

13.2 CHRISTOPHER J. HURN, from *The Limits and Possibilities of Schooling* 310

"If the functional paradigm sees schools as more or less efficient mechanisms for sorting and selecting talented people and for producing cognitive skills, the radical paradigm sees schools as serving the interest of elites, as

reinforcing existing inequalities, and as producing attitudes that foster the acceptance of the status quo."

13.3 D. L. ROSENHAN, from "On Being Sane in Insane Places,"
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"Once a person is designated abnormal, all of his other behaviors and characteristics are colored by that label. Indeed, that label is so powerful that many of the pseudopatient's normal behaviors were overlooked entirely or profoundly misinterpreted."

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14.2 SANDRA POSTEL, from "Carrying Capacity: Earth's Bottom Line,"
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"As a result of our population size, consumption patterns, and technology choices, we have surpassed the planet's carrying capacity. This is plainly evident by the extent to which we are damaging and depleting natural capital. The earth's environmental assets are now insufficient to sustain both our present patterns of economic activity and the life-support systems we depend on."

CHAPTER 15 Community 348

15.1 CLAUDE S. FISCHER, from "Ambivalent Communities: How Americans Understand Their Localities," in Alan Wolfe, ed., *America at Century's End* 348

"While Americans value the locality as solidarity, it takes second place to individual freedom."

15.2 LOUIS WIRTH, from "Urbanism as a Way of Life," *American Journal of Sociology* 356

"[T]he city is characterized by secondary rather than primary contacts. The contacts of the city may indeed be face to face, but they are impersonal, superficial, transitory, and segmental."

- 16.1 MANCUR OLSON, JR.,** from *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups* 361

"If the members of a large group rationally seek to maximize their personal welfare, they will not act to advance their common or group objectives unless there is coercion to force them to do so, or unless some separate incentive . . . is offered to the members of the group."

- 16.2 ANTHONY OBERSCHALL,** from *Social Movements: Ideologies, Interests, and Identities* 372

"Internal weaknesses stemming from the absence of a grassroots organization structure and from reliance on the media for recruitment, communication, and political education destroyed the mobilizing capabilities of the pacesetter leaders and movement organizations when media attention shifted away from movement concerns and coverage."

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- 17.1 IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN,** from "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 381

"The functioning then of a capitalist world-economy requires that groups pursue their economic interests within a single world market while seeking to distort this market for their benefit by organizing to exert influence on states, some of which are far more powerful than others but none of which controls the world market in its entirety."

- 17.2 SAMUEL P. HUNTINGTON,** from "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 392

"As people define their identity in ethnic and religious terms, they are likely to see an 'us' versus 'them' relation existing between themselves and people of different ethnicity or religion."

- 17.3 PETER F. DRUCKER,** from "The Age of Social Transformation," *The Atlantic Monthly* 401

"[K]nowledge workers will give the emerging knowledge society its character, its leadership, its social profile."

PART ONE

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