

MARK HUTTER

THE
Changing Family
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES
SECOND EDITION



MARK HUTTER
GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

The Changing Family:
Comparative Perspectives

SECOND EDITION

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TO LORRAINE,
DANIEL, ELIZABETH,
AND MY PARENTS

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Preface

This second edition continues to reflect the increased concern of the American public and of social scientists to study family change from both an historical and a cross-cultural perspective. Americans' interest in their historical and cultural roots continues unabated. In addition, the impact of worldwide revolutionary events has had a dramatic effect on all our lives, heightening our desire to gain a better understanding of other cultures.

The upsurge of significant information about the family from social history and cross-cultural scholarship has grown even more impressive since the publication of the first edition. It is no longer legitimate for sociology-of-the-family courses to focus narrowly on the contemporary American middle-class family. The approach now favored includes comparative materials from other cultures as well as from our own historical past. In addition, the diversity in American families has become the anchoring theme of sociological attention to the study of the family. Mirroring this development, instructors not only in the area of the family but also throughout the sociology curriculum are offering comparative courses that devote more time to historical and cross-cultural materials.

The first edition of this textbook was in the vanguard of this comparative emphasis. It reflected, systematized, and further enhanced these developments with new insights and a wealth of new information on the dynamics of family change and the making of the contemporary family. *The Changing Family* was and continues to be a leader among sociology-of-the-family texts that fully and systematically develop a cross-cultural perspective throughout the study of the family life cycle. It uses a wide variety of cultural and historical examples, examines selected societies, and reveals both general trends and unique variations. The reader will find the diversity of American family dynamics illuminated by these comparisons.

The topical coverage maintains this comparative view. For example, the great changes in family structure due to modernization are revealed through issues from Western and non-Western societies. The sociological perspective is similarly developed as the book explores macroscopic and microscopic concerns equally, building a balanced picture of the changing family. The text comparatively highlights changes in personal value systems, interpersonal relationships, gender-role relationships, marriage, and the structure of the family.

This new edition is characterized by increased attention to topical coverage and recent sociological analyses of the family in the United States. The historical materials found in Part I have been reorganized, presenting the theories in a more concise and more relevant fashion. Part II reflects the increased attention given to the diversity of the American family experience by including a new chapter that focuses

on immigrant and ethnic family dynamics and shows the important influence of ethnicity on American family life.

The examination of contemporary American family themes has been expanded. There is added emphasis on current social issues that help the reader relate sociological theory to his or her world. This includes discussions on the feminization of poverty, teenage mothers, singlehood, the dual-career family, abortion, grandparenthood and the four-generation family, family violence, and divorce and remarriage. The timely analysis of heterosexuality, homosexuality, and the effect of AIDS on each appears in a new chapter on gender and sexuality. The implications of critical social policies on these family concerns are discussed and given added attention.

The exploration of societal and cultural similarities, using current examples, continues to illuminate comparative family dynamics. Topics covered include the Iranian revolution and the impact on women's rights and divorce; living under apartheid in South Africa; arranged marriages and the dowry system in India; work, gender roles, and policy implications in Sweden, the Soviet Union, and Israel; and industrialization and urbanization and its impact on courtship and mate-selection processes in Japan. Two chapters are still exclusively devoted to examining changing patterns of family life in non-Western societies: Chapter 6 discusses family life in sub-Saharan Africa and Chapter 18 examines the family in China. These more detailed analyses have been updated and provide three-dimensional portraits of, as well as some fascinating insights into, the impact of family change in diverse contemporary situations.

A distinctive feature of this text is the use of newspaper and newsweekly articles. New materials have been selected to illustrate concepts and theories in everyday language. There are also case studies and excerpts from popular nonfiction, which serve a useful pedagogical purpose and add to the relevance of the text. These materials reveal the impact of change on a personal level and add a human dimension to the analysis.

This second edition continues to be in the forefront of the logical evolution in the sociology-of-the-family textbook. It does not break with the past; instructors do not have to revamp their courses because the book follows tried-and-true topical patterns. Its outstanding feature is its extensive coverage of cross-cultural and historical materials from beginning to end. Instructors welcomed this emphasis in the groundbreaking first edition. Those instructors who do not emphasize the family systems of other societies will be able to elaborate on the diversity of the American family in their class lectures with the full knowledge that the comparative perspective presented in this textbook will complement and enhance their own presentation. An instructor's manual with a new feature that guides us in the usage of family history as a classroom technique is also available.

M.H.

Acknowledgments to the Second Edition

In the years that have passed since the publication of the first edition of this book, I increasingly am aware of the lifelong intellectual debt that I owe Alfred McClung Lee and Murray A. Straus. My point of view also has been influenced by Sidney Aronson, Peter L. Berger, the late Reuben Hill, the late Gregory P. Stone, and other members of the department of sociology at Brooklyn College and at the University of Minnesota. Their insights and knowledge are reflected throughout this book.

Colleagues and friends continue to enlighten me about sociology and how it should be taught. The faculty members of the sociology department at Glassboro State College are most esteemed. By name they are: Pearl W. Bartelt, Jay Chaskes, John Myers, Wilhelmina Perry, Manju Sheth, Susan Gotsch Thomson, and Flora Dorsey Young. I especially wish to thank Ted Tannenbaum for his critical reading and keen judgment that improved many a chapter. Additional significant others include Harvey A. Farberman, David Bartelt, Kathy Charmaz, R. Frank Falk, David D. Franks, Richard N. Juliani, Sandy Litvin, John Loffland, Lyn Loffland, Patrick W. Luck, Dean MacCannell, Joseph Marolla, Doreen Sternchos, Richard V. Travisano, William C. Yoels, and Margaret Zahn. The Ethnic Studies Association, the Garden State Immigration History Consortium, and The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies are vital Delaware Valley and New Jersey institutional affiliations.

I am most grateful to the many students at Glassboro State College, the University of California, Davis, and Temple University who have fired my sociological imagination. Glassboro State College has provided numerous grants that have been invaluable in my research and writing.

This book originated with John Wiley and Sons, whose professional staff was most helpful in the publication of the first edition. A special thanks is owed to Carol Luitjens, whose enthusiasm and creative suggestions were gratifying. I re-express my gratitude to all who were involved in the editorial review process of the first edition. These included Michael Gordon, Paula M. Hudis, Elizabeth Huttman, David Kent Lee, and Hallowell Pope.

I am extremely lucky that the present staff at Macmillan has proved to be equally helpful and valuable. Sociology editor Chris Cardone has the class, sophistication, and street smarts to handle a fellow New Yorker. The production staff also is very able. Much thanks is expressed to the current reviewers, who include J. Kenneth Davidson, Sr., University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Gary D. Hampe, University of Wyoming; Christine A. Hope, College of Charleston; E. Doyle McCarthy, Fordham University; and Rita Phylliss Sakitt, Suffolk County Community College.

Finally, I paraphrase with love and affection my closing acknowledgment remarks of the first edition. I too often took for granted but nevertheless fully appreciate the tolerance and forbearance displayed by my wife, Lorraine, and our children, Daniel and Elizabeth, for sharing our family life with my work on *The Changing Family*. I sincerely hope that they continue to feel that the sacrifice has been justified.

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