

FOURTH EDITION AN INTRODUCTION

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SOCIOLOGY AN INTRODUCTION • FOURTH EDITION

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SOCIOLOGY: An Introduction

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About the Authors

Michael S. Bassis is Executive Vice President and University Provost at Antioch University. A specialist in the sociology of education and complex organizations, his current research interests include the structure and dynamics of faculty careers and organizational leadership.

Dr. Bassis graduated from Brown University, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1974. Before moving to Antioch University in 1989, he was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Eastern Connecticut State University. Previously he has held faculty and administrative appointments at the University of Rhode Island and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

In addition to having published numerous articles and essays, he is the coauthor of a research monograph, and with Richard Gelles and Ann Levine, *Social Problems*. He served as editor of the journal *Teaching Sociology* from 1982 to 1985.

Richard J. Gelles is Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and the Director of the Family Violence Research Program at the University of Rhode Island. His book, *The Violent Home*, was the first systematic empirical investigation of family violence and continues to be highly influential. He is the author or coauthor of fourteen books and more than ninety articles and chapters on family violence. His most recent books are *Intimate Violence*, published in July 1988 by Simon and Schuster, *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations in*

8,145 Families, published by Transaction Books in 1990, and *Intimate Violence in Families*, published in 1990 by Sage Publications.

Dr. Gelles received his Bachelor of Arts from Bates College in 1968, a Master's in Sociology from the University of Rochester in 1971, and a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of New Hampshire in 1973. He edited the journal *Teaching Sociology* from 1973 to 1981 and received the American Sociological Association, Section on Undergraduate Education, "Outstanding Contributions to Teaching Award" in 1979. Gelles has presented innumerable lectures to policymaking groups and media groups, including *The Today Show, CBS Morning News*, and *Good Morning America*. In 1984 *Esquire* named him as one of the men and women under the age of forty who is "changing America."

Ann Levine worked as an editor in the Journals Department of Rockefeller University and in the College Department of Prentice-Hall before becoming a free-lance writer in 1971. Since then she has been the principal writer on a number of college textbooks in sociology, psychology, and anthropology, including *Understanding Psychology*, 2d ed. She was coauthor of *Social Problems* with Michael Bassis and Richard Gelles, and of *Understanding Development*, with Sandra Scarr and Richard Weinberg. *You and Your Adolescent: A Parents' Guide for Ages 10 to 20*, coauthored with Laurence Steinberg, was selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club and the *Psychology Today* Book Club in 1990. Levine received

Preface

Students come to their first course in sociology with a natural curiosity about the social world in which they live. In responding to that curiosity, the authors of an introductory sociology textbook have two basic responsibilities. The first is to introduce students to the sociological perspective: to theoretical orientations, to the use of the scientific method in studying human behavior, and to the concepts that guide the thinking and research of sociologists. The second is to describe what sociologists have learned about how the social world is put together.

Some texts emphasize the first responsibility, on the grounds that students must master theoretical constructs, technical vocabulary, and methodology before they can begin to understand social behavior. We agree that learning the basics is important. But we believe that a true understanding of the discipline of sociology comes from the active effort to understand society and how it got to be the way it is.

Changes in the Fourth Edition. The main goal of this revision is to provide students with the cross-cultural perspective, historical background, and analytic tools necessary to understand current issues and debates, ranging from teenage pregnancy to corporate takeovers.

One major new feature is a series of boxes on *Sociology and the Media*. These boxes take a critical look at one of our primary sources of information—television. Is the evening news an accurate reflection of what is happening in the world? (See Chapter 1.) Does violence on TV promote violence in real life? (See Chapter 6.) How has the portrayal of the family in TV sitcoms changed and why? (See Chapter 12.) What role

do the media play in U.S. elections? In revolutions in other countries? (See Chapter 15.)

The second new feature is a series of boxes on Communist Societies in Transition. When we began this revision in early 1989 no one would have predicted that Chinese students calling for democracy would occupy Tianamen Square; that, one by one, the communist governments of Eastern Europe would be toppled by peaceful revolutions; or that the Soviet government would permit free elections within its borders. But the unthinkable happened. What lies ahead is impossible to predict. The boxes in this text provide the background necessary to understand the changing world scene. How did the opening of China to the West in the 1980s change the way the Chinese view themselves? (See Chapter 3.) Why is there so much ethnic conflict and unrest in the Soviet Union? (See Chapter 9.) What are the economic goals of perestroika? (See Chapter 16.) Other key issues, changes, and updates are woven into the chapters themselves.

PART I: INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGY

Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective

This chapter uses a combination of classic and contemporary research to answer the question, What is sociology? The chapter begins by examining (and rejecting) the idea that sociology is "nothing more than common sense." A comparison of sociology and TV news has been expanded with new insights into how the mass media shape our perception of the social world. David Phillips' work on copycat suicide updates

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Emile Durkheim's classic sociological study of suicide. The chapter ends by illustrating the practical uses of sociology in today's complex and changing world. Two boxed inserts describe the revival of sociology in the Soviet Union and the media's role in copycat suicide.

Chapter 2: The Science of Sociology

This chapter has been reorganized to emphasize research. The discussion of sociologists at work includes a new example of historical research, Ira Katnelson and Margaret Weir's "Schooling for All." The section on theory illustrates how new directions in sociological thinking are grounded in classical theory (functionalism and conflict theory). Special attention is given to symbolic interactionism. As in previous editions, the chapter ends by showing how theory and research are intertwined. A boxed insert discusses the ethics of social research.

PART II: DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

Chapter 3: Culture

A new introduction uses today's immigrants to the United States (especially Vietnamese refugees) and the increasing diversity of the U.S. population to illustrate the importance of studying culture. After analyzing the basic elements of culture, the chapter turns to cultural variations. Gary Fine's *With the Boys* provides the example of subcultures. The section on theory includes a new discussion of the individual's role in the production of culture and Ann Swidler's concept of culture as a "tool kit."

One box describes Moscow's reaction to the opening of McDonald's. A second box analyses both planned and unplanned cultural change in China.

Chapter 4: Socialization

The opening sections of this chapter have been revised to emphasize the *process* of socialization. The discussion of socialization in childhood includes a new section on growing up with TV.

The analysis of socialization and the life cycle has been rewritten to emphasize increasing variability in the age and sequence in which people take on the roles of worker, spouse, and parent.

The boxes analyze the changing nature of youth groups in the Soviet Union and the problem of unwed teenage mothers in the United States.

Chapter 5: Social Interaction and Social Structure

This chapter has been revised to show the many levels of social structure, beginning with the patterns of everyday interaction. The chapter moves step by step through social relationships, social institutions, and the evolution of modern societies to the world system. The groups material from the last edition's chapter 6, "Groups and Organizations," has been updated and integrated into this chapter. New sections analyze networks and the impact of population structure.

One box describes Philip Zimbardo's classic experiment on the power of social roles. Another analyzes patterns of interracial friendship on college campuses.

Chapter 6: Deviance and Social Control

This chapter uses updated materials to examine the social definition of deviance, contrast psychological and sociological theories of deviance, and analyze the troubling issues of crime and crime control.

One box asks whether or not a crime wave is sweeping the Soviet Union. A second box analyzes the impact of violence in the media on violence in real life.

Chapter 7: Collective Behavior and Social Movements

This chapter is organized around the question, Is collective behavior rational or irrational? Extended examples of mass hysteria (The People's Temple), crowd violence (the Watts riot of 1965), social movements (the current disabled rights movement), and social revolutions (Theda Skocpol's analysis of the revolution of Iran) sug-

gest answers. A box provides an in-depth analvsis of the 1989 student movement in China.

PART III: SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Chapter 8: Social Stratification

This chapter looks at cross-cultural variations in social stratification, then focuses on social and economic inequality in the United States. A new section on the emergence of a black underclass draws on the work of Julius K. Wilson and others. The chapter ends with a discussion of the global system of stratification. A boxed insert provides the latest data on America's homeless.

Chapter 9: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

This chapter begins with a new discussion of cross-cultural variations in racial and ethnic relations, including an in-depth analysis of apartheid. The next section traces the history of intergroup relations in the United States, with a new analysis of the civil rights movement based on the work of A. D. Morris. There are new sections on the current status of black Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. The discussion of continuing racial inequality draws on the findings of the National Research Council, released in 1989. Boxed inserts explain the ethnic problems that have surfaced in the Soviet Union under glasnost and discuss the depiction of Arabs in the media.

Chapter 10: Gender and Age Stratification

The first half of this chapter looks at myths and facts about the differences between males and females; analyzes the position women occupy in the United States today; then traces the women's movement, from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present. The second half of the chapter uses the latest data to analyze the changing position of the elderly in our society.

The first box considers what happens to couples when the wife is the chief breadwinner. The second box compares women who are "prolife" and "pro-choice" activists.

PART IV: THE CHANGING SHAPE OF SOCIETY

Chapter 11: Formal Organizations

This new chapter analyses the role of formal organizations in contemporary society, with special emphasis on business corporations. The chapter begins with classic sociological insights into the origins, nature, and problems of bureaucracy. The next section considers alternatives to bureaucracy, including collegial organizations, the Japanese corporation, and collectivist organizations. Alvin Toffler's study of AT&T sets the stage for an analysis of the relationship between organizations and their environments. The discussion of organizational survival draws on Rosabeth Kanter's observations of Eastman Kodak and Apple Computer. The last section looks to the future via Michael Poire and Charles Sabel's model of flexible specialization and Kanter's model of the post-entrepreneurial corporation.

One box analyzes the position of women in U.S. corporations. The second box describes bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

Chapter 12: The Family

This chapter begins by looking at the family in cross-cultural and historical perspective. The chapter continues with new and updated discussions of today's families, including singles, single parents, childless families, and dual-earner and dual-career families (with insights from Arlene Hochschild's The Second Shift). The discussion of family violence has been updated with material from Richard Gelles and Murray Straus' Intimate Violence. The section on divorce includes new sections on the impact of divorce on children and remarriage and stepfamilies. The last section discusses issues facing families—and society—as we move toward the twenty-first century.

One box shows how prime time TV families reflect changing social concerns. The second box considers China's one-child policy.

Chapter 13: Education

This chapter starts by describing different views of the rise of public education in Western societies. The second section compares the educational system in the United States to those in other countries, including a new discussion of education in Japan. The third section deals with the question of whether our schools offer equal opportunity to all young people or perpetuate inequality, and if so why. A new concluding section focuses on current policy debates over how to improve the quality of education in the United States.

The first box considers how children themselves reproduce social class differences in educational attainment. The second box asks whether Asian American college students are an advantaged or disadvantaged minority.

Chapter 14: Religion

This chapter looks first at the historical role of religion in society and next at the varieties of religious organizations. Then the chapter turns to the role of religion in modern society, with particular attention to the United States. A new section on the restructuring of religion in America draws on the work of Robert Wuthnow, who emphasizes the changing relationship between religion and politics.

The first box describes changing government policies on religion in the Soviet Union. The second box compares cults to established religions.

Chapter 15: Politics

This chapter puts contemporary politics in historical perspective. The first section traces the rise of the state and the emergence of the modern welfare state. The discussion "Beyond the Welfare State?" includes a new critical analysis of the Reagan years. The section on the ideals and realities of democracy lay the groundwork for a survey of the contemporary political scene in the United States. The last section looks at war and revolution, with special attention to the arms race and a new discussion of the end of the Cold War.

The first box describes the impact of the mass media on politics, from elections to revolutions. The second box describes the peaceful democratic revolutions that swept Eastern Europe in 1989 through 1990.

Chapter 16: Technology, Work, and the Economy

This chapter begins by tracing the rise of big business in the United States. The second section contrasts the ideals of capitalism to contemporary realities (including corporate takeovers). The next section uses familiar examples such as McDonald's to illustrate the changing world of work. Then the chapter focuses on the impact of computers and automation on both the organization of work and the experience of workers. The last section looks at the global economy, including an updated analysis of multinational corporations and a new discussion of the economic crisis in the Third World.

One box analyzes the impact of big business on TV news and entertainment. The second takes an in-depth look at the economic problems facing the Soviet Union and steps toward *perestroika* or restructuring.

Chapter 17: Population, Global Ecology, and Urbanization

This chapter analyzes patterns of population growth, supply and consumption of resources, and urbanization from a global perspective, with special attention to the environmental consequences of social patterns.

One box explains why the famine in Africa continues. The second discusses the media's impact on public perceptions of environmental hazards.

AIDS FOR STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

There is much to be learned in the coming semester. Most textbooks boldface and define key terms when they first appear in the text, and provide summaries at the end of each chapter. So do we. We also include a list of key terms at the end of each chapter and a glossary at the end of the book.

Study Guide

Each student will receive, along with the text, a copy of a Study Guide prepared by John Maiolo of East Carolina University and Ann Levine. The Study Guide is designed to enable students to test their comprehension of the material in each text chapter and prepare for class and for exams. Each chapter begins with a list of five or six basic questions the student should be able to answer after reading the corresponding chapter in the text. A chapter review highlights the major points discussed in the chapter, following the order in which they are presented. To enable students to test how well they have mastered the text material, each chapter in the Study Guide includes a concept review, in which terms must be matched with the correct definition: 20 to 25 review questions, with brief explanations of the correct answers; and true/false questions that challenge the student to distinguish between popular myths and social fact.

"Critical Thinking" sections—with thoughtprovoking questions, short readings, hypothetical scenarios, etc.—encourage students to apply the sociological concepts presented in each chapter. Some chapters in the Study Guide also include an Exercise—a questionnaire or activity that allows students to assess their own behavior from a sociological point of view.

Instructor's Manual

Supplemental material for instructors is also available. The Instructor's Manual includes for each text chapter a chapter overview, summarizing key principles and research findings; a list of teaching objectives; three or more minilectures; research projects to promote student learning through "hands-on" experience; essay questions; and a classroom exercise (prepared by James Loewen, University of Vermont; some revised by John Maiolo, East Carolina University) that can usually be conducted during one class period to help illustrate basic concepts.

Test Bank

The *Test Bank* contains approximately sixty multiple-choice questions per chapter, with answers keyed to the relevant pages in text and the type of question (applied or factual). The fourth-edition Instructor's Manual and Test Bank were prepared by a team directed by John Maiolo at East Carolina University.

Supporting Software and Tansparency Acetates

Computerized Activities in Sociology provides simulations of social situations in which the student plays an active role and learns how sociology can be used to understand important everyday experiences. Another instructional aid is an extensive set of fifty beautiful four-color transparency acetates available to adopters of introductory sociology textbooks from McGraw-Hill.

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Michael S. Bassis Richard J. Gelles Ann Levine Craig Calboun

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