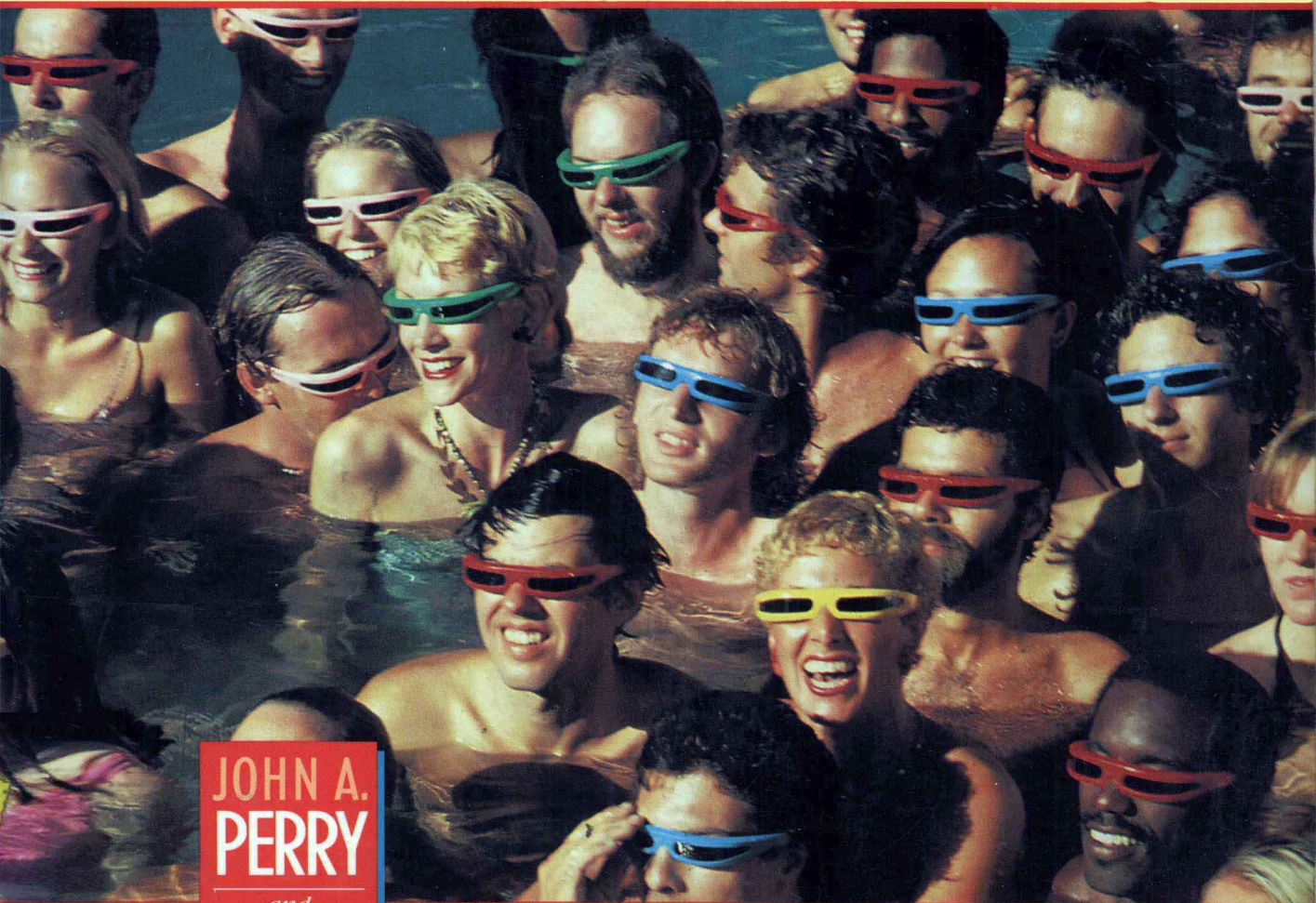


SIXTH ♦ EDITIO

CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

An Introduction to Social Science



JOHN A.
PERRY

and

ERNA K.
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Contemporary Society

*An Introduction to
Social Science*

SIXTH EDITION

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Cuyahoga Community College

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*To our grandchildren—
Brendan Fusco and Ashley Perry*

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To the Instructor

This sixth edition of *Contemporary Society* retains all the features that have made the text well received in its previous editions, namely a seamless integration of the social sciences; a snappy, jargon-free style of writing; interesting readings from the educated laypersons' press; and up-to-date statistical data.

In addition, we have heeded critical voices that accused us of favoring sociological, psychological, and anthropological concepts over the “harder” disciplines of economics and political science. The latter are now thoroughly presented in six chapters (Chapters 15 through 20). Of course, one must keep in mind that Social Science as an academic course is designed to offer only an overview of the various disciplines; thus, it would be unrealistic to expect the depth of coverage that a course in each individual discipline offers.

Another caveat is the fact that events have proceeded at such breakneck speed in several areas of the world that it has been difficult to keep up. This is particularly true of Chapter 20, dealing with the international sphere, but also of Chapter 15, in which the authoritarian and totalitarian doctrines are discussed. We have noted the momentous changes wherever possible, but we must leave it to the instructor to bring the student up to date on specific regions and countries.

As in the previous edition, all the great movements of the past 500 years—industrialization, urbanization, population growth, bureaucratization—are shown within the context of, and to be emanations of, social change. The ultimate trend toward the model of mass society present in many contemporary societies is also pointed out.

A major addition to the text is a historical account of the American labor movement—as well as a description of the remainder of the industrial bureaucracy—in the chapter dealing with economic principles. This presentation is followed by an exploration of the new global economy, which represents a partial explanation for the difficulties encountered by the American labor movement.

The readings are, once again, all new. In keeping with our desire to show a more rigorous scientific approach to social science, we have attempted to choose readings that show how such knowledge is gathered, as well as the problems that social scientists

face. The first reading, for instance, shows how “The Answer May Depend on Who Asked the Question.” Another reading illustrates the point that it is not only women who have undergone role changes; men have been equally affected (“Men, Too, Wrestle with Career–Family Stress”). In “Secret Lives of New York,” sociologists and anthropologists observe several subcultural groups that inhabit our own society, and what they find may give some of us the same cultural shock we would feel if we were visiting distant continents. Exact scientists studying the human brain have much to tell us about the differences between men and women (“How the Mind Was Designed”). Urbanization is a given in our society, but it is still just a beginning movement in Africa. How it affects people is vividly portrayed in “From Rural Poverty to Urban Destitution.” Finally, the speculation that ideologies competing with democracy no longer represent a threat (“Has History Come to an End?”) and some suggestions about what the future of the world might look like “After the Cold War” make fitting conclusions to this edition. The readings originate in such publications as the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, *Time*, and *Public Opinion*, among others.

End-of-chapter summaries, defined glossary terms, and lists of suggested reading have been retained and appear at the end of each chapter.

As always, many people have contributed to making *Contemporary Society*, Sixth Edition, a complete and effective teaching package for students. We would like to thank our sponsoring editor, Alan McClare, and our project editor, Steven Pisano, who have been good facilitators and have guided a lengthy project to a successful conclusion. Our reviewers have been instrumental in suggesting improvements in each edition, and we take the opportunity to thank them here:

Bill Callum, *Daytona Beach Community College*

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In addition, the librarians at Cuyahoga Community College, in particular Pat Gabriel of the Eastern Campus, as well as at the various local university and municipal and county libraries have been, without exception, patient, considerate, and helpful—attitudes worth being grateful for in this age of secondary relationships. We would also like to thank our colleagues Don Jelfo, Laura Blunk, and Larry Kendra for their generosity in guiding us to texts in their areas of expertise.

John A. Perry
Erna Perry

To the Student

This text is directed at you, the undergraduate student who is not quite sure what the social sciences are but who is curious about the social world that surrounds you and of which you are a part. This is not the material you covered in civics courses in high school. Nor does it have anything to do with social work. Rather, social science is an integrated approach to the study of the individual social science disciplines that developed to examine the social world. We have attempted to write clearly and concisely, to employ examples you can identify with, and to use readings that make their points interestingly. We hope that by understanding social science principles you will better understand yourself and how you can succeed in the complex social world in which you exist.

At the beginning of each chapter you are told what you will learn if you read the chapter. You should use this list as a guide to the salient points the authors are attempting to make. In addition, to help you do well in the course, we have developed an accompanying study guide that points out the most important segments of each chapter, directs you to the goals you should be reaching, and quizzes you in various ways to prepare you to pass examinations.

Contents

TO THE INSTRUCTOR xvii

TO THE STUDENT xix

Chapter 1 The Social World Through the Lens of Science 1

Science as a Tool of Inquiry 3

The Social World Seen Through the Lens of Science 3

The Scientific Spirit 4

Elements of the Scientific Method 4

Steps of the Scientific Method 5

The Social Sciences 7

Anthropology 8

Economics 9

Geography 10

History 10

Political Science 10

Psychology 11

Sociology 12

The Scientific Method in the Social Sciences 12

Concepts 12

Theories 13

Research 13

Research Methods in the Social Sciences 13

Sample Survey 15

The Case Study 15

Participant Observation 16

The Experiment 16

Social Science and Social Scientists 18

- Research 19
- Consulting and Advising 19
- Teaching 20
- Social Science 20

The Chapter in Brief 20

Terms to Remember 21

Suggested Reading 22

Reading: Richard Morin, "The Answer May Depend On Who Asked the Question" 23

Chapter 2 In the Beginning . . . 27

The Beginnings of Life 29

The Theory of Evolution 30

- Natural Selection 31
- Genetics 32
- Mechanisms of Heredity 33

The Long Trek: Human Evolution 36

- From Ape to Hominid 37
- From Hominid to *Homo Sapiens* 38
- Homo Sapiens*: Modern Humans 38
- Agriculture 40

The Evolution of Human Nature 42

- Biological Foundations 42

The Chapter in Brief 43

Terms to Remember 44

Suggested Reading 45

Reading: Sharon Begley with Fiona Gleizes, "My Granddad, Neanderthal?" 46

Chapter 3 Life in Groups: Interaction and Structure of Human Life in Society 49

The Social System: Structure and Organization 52

Elements of Social Structure: Statuses and Roles 53

- Statuses: Ascribed and Achieved 54
- The Multiplicity of Statuses and Roles 55

Groups 58

- Group Size 59
- Primary and Secondary Groups 59
- Additional Classification of Groups 61

Society 62

- Classification of Societies 62
- Classification According to Social Organization 64

Social Interaction and Social Processes 64

- Social Processes 64

The Chapter in Brief 66**Terms to Remember 67****Suggested Reading 68**

Reading: Cathy Trost, "Men, Too, Wrestle with Career-Family Stress" 69

Chapter 4 Culture: Product and Guide to Life in Society 73**Culture 75**

- Biological Predisposition to Culture 76
- Definition of Culture 76
- The Symbolic Nature of Culture 76
- The Most Important Symbol: Language 77

The Content of Culture 80

- Material Culture 80
- Nonmaterial Culture 82
- Components of Nonmaterial Culture: Cognitive and Normative 82
- The Normative System 82
- Categories of Norms: Folkways, Mores, Taboos, and Laws 86
- The Basis of the Normative System: The Need for Social Control 86
- Traits, Complexes, and Institutions 88

Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativity 89**Cultural Differences and Universals 89****Subcultures and Countercultures 90**

- Subcultures 90
- Countercultures 92

The Chapter in Brief 93**Terms to Remember 94****Suggested Reading 95**

Reading: Dinitia Smith, "Secret Lives of New York" 96

Chapter 5 *Becoming a Person* 107

Personality 108

Personality: A Social Product on a Biological Basis 109

Heredity and Environment 110

Becoming Human: Socialization 112

Goals and Functions of Socialization 112

Theories of Socialization 113

The Looking-Glass Self: Cooley 113

The Self in Society: Mead 114

The Self and the Unconscious: Freud 114

The Transitional Self: Erikson 117

Behaviorism 118

Developmental Theories: Piaget 119

Moral Development: Kohlberg 120

Agents of Socialization 121

The Family 121

The School 121

The Peer Group 122

The Media 122

Occupational Groups 123

Reverse Socialization 123

Resocialization 123

Socialization Through the Life Cycle 124

Childhood 124

Adolescence 125

Adulthood 126

Old Age 126

Some Conclusions 127

The Chapter in Brief 128

Terms to Remember 129

Suggested Reading 130

Reading: Robert Karen, "Becoming Attached" 131

Chapter 6 *Deviance and Criminality* 137

Deviance 138

The Relative Nature of Deviance 139

Functions of Deviance 140

Attempts to Explain Deviance 140

- Biological Explanations 141
- Psychological Explanations 142
- Mental Disorders 142
- Treatment of Mental Disorders 144

Deviance from a Sociological Perspective 144

- Anomie: Durkheim and Merton 145
- Cultural Transmission (Differential Association) 146
- Labeling Theory 149

Crime: Deviance That Hurts 150

- Classification of Crimes 150
- Crime Statistics: How Much Crime, and Who Commits it? 153

The Criminal Justice System 157**The Chapter in Brief 160****Terms to Remember 161****Suggested Reading 162**

Reading: Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi, "If You Want A Successful Drug War, Take It to the Children" 163

Chapter 7 The Great Divide: Ranking and Stratification 167**Social Differentiation, Ranking, and Stratification 169**

- Stratification 169
- Structural-Functional Perspective 170
- Conflict Perspective 171

Dimensions of Stratification: Class, Status, and Power 172

- Class 172
- Status 173
- Power 176

Systems of Stratification 177

- The Closed Society: Caste 177
- The Estate System 178
- The Open Society: Class System 178

Determining Social Class 179**Social Class and Its Consequences 181****Social Mobility 183**

- Social Mobility in the United States 184

Poverty 185

- Poverty in America 186
- The Underclass 187
- The Elderly 188
- The Working Poor 188
- The Homeless 188
- Causes and Effects of Poverty 189

The Chapter in Brief 190

Terms to Remember 191

Suggested Reading 192

Reading: Steve Berg, "The Gap Between Rich and Poor" 193

Chapter 8 *Differentiation: Race, Ethnicity, and Minority* 197

Majority and Minorities: Definitions of Terms 199

- Common Characteristics of Minorities 200

Bases of Minority Status: Ethnicity, Religion, and Race 200

The Making of a Pluralist Society 201

- Anglo-Conformity 201
- The Melting Pot 202
- Cultural Pluralism 203

Majority and Minorities: Processes of Coexistence 203

In the Way: Obstacles to Pluralism 204

- Racism 204
- Prejudice 205
- Causes of Prejudice 205
- Discrimination 206
- Prejudice and Discrimination: A Question of Economics 208

Racial Minorities 210

- Native Americans 210
- Asian-Americans 211
- African-Americans 212

Ethnic Minorities 215

- Hispanic Americans 216

Religious Minorities 218

- Catholics 218
- Jews 219
- The New Face of America 219

The Chapter in Brief 220

Terms to Remember 222

Suggested Reading 223

Reading: C. Vann Woodward, "The Crisis of Caste" 225

Chapter 9 Differentiation: Gender and Age 229

Women 231

Biological Differences: Nature 231

Cultural Differences: Nurture 232

Sex Roles 234

Gender Role Socialization 235

Inequality and the Ideology of Sexism 238

The Women's Movement 241

Sexism Elsewhere 244

Age 246

Theoretical Framework 246

Age Stratification 247

Ageism 248

Health 248

Work and Retirement 250

Finances 251

Relationships with Others 252

Widowhood 252

Death and Dying 253

Additional Bases of Differentiation 253

The Chapter in Brief 254

Terms to Remember 255

Suggested Reading 256

Reading: Geoffrey Cowley, "How the Mind Was Designed" 257

Chapter 10 Pivotal Institutions: The Family 262

The Basic Institution: The Family 264

Family Forms 265

Kinship Systems 266

Marriage 267

Family Functions 268

Love and Marriage in America 269

Changing Marital Patterns 270

Divorce 270

Divorce as the New Norm 272

Consequences of Divorce: Wounds That Do Not Heal 274

Alternatives to the Traditional Family 275

Forms of the New American Family 276

Some Unintended Effects of the Changing American Family 279

Extramarital Affairs 280

Child Care 280

Family Violence 281

Teenage Pregnancy 282

Conclusion 285

The Chapter in Brief 284

Terms to Remember 286

Suggested Reading 287

Reading: Karl Zinsmeister, "Raising Hiroko. The Child-Centered Culture of Japan" 288

Chapter 11 Pivotal Institutions: Religion, Education 299

Religion 300

Religion in the Social Sciences 301

The Functions of Religion 303

Religion in America 304

The Sanctification of the American Way of Life 308

Contemporary Trends 308

Education 310

Education in America 311

Manifest and Latent Functions 312

A Conflict Perspective 314

Education and Social Class 315

The Chapter in Brief 322

Terms to Remember 323

Suggested Reading 323

Robert J. Samuelson, "Teenagers in Dreamland" 325

Chapter 12 Contemporary Society and the Effects of Social Change: Mass Society, Formal Organizations, Bureaucracy 328

Change: Cause and Effect 330

Modernization 330

Processes of Social and Cultural Change 331

Social Change: Planning, Reform, Revolution 331

Cultural Change: Innovation and Diffusion 332

Other Sources of Change 333

Technology 334

The Industrial Revolution 336

Some Theories of Sociocultural Change 338

Mass Society 341

What Is a Mass Society? 342

Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy 345

Voluntary Associations 346

Bureaucracy 346

The Chapter in Brief 348**Terms to Remember 349****Suggested Reading 350**

Reading: Michael Barone and Joannie M. Schrof, "The Changing Voice of Talk Radio" 352

**Chapter 13 *The World and Its People:
Population and Environment 356*****Population Density 357**

Demographic Processes: Dynamics of Population Change 358

Characteristics and Composition of a Population 362

Population Around the World 364

Demographic Transition 365

Population Policies 368

The Natural Environment 371

The Ecosystem 371

The Chapter in Brief 376**Terms to Remember 377****Suggested Reading 377**

Reading: David E. Bloom and Neil G. Bennett, "Future Shock" 379

**Chapter 14 *The City and Its People: Urbanization and Collective
Behavior 386*****The Preindustrial Cities 388****Amerian Cities 390**

The Urban Transition 392

- Suburbia 393
- Metropolitanization 394
- The Urban Crisis 396
- Attempts to Reclaim the City 398

Collective Behavior 400

- Theories of Collective Behavior 403

Publics and Public Opinion 404

- Public Opinion 405
- Propaganda and Censorship 405

Social Movements 406

- Ideology in Social Movements 407
- Rise of Social Movements 407
- Conditions for the Rise of Social Movements 408
- Kinds of Social Movements 408

The Chapter in Brief 409

Terms to Remember 410

Suggested Reading 411

Reading: Mary Battiata, "From Rural Poverty to Urban Destitution" 412

Chapter 15 Ideologies and Their Consequences: Autocracy and Democracy 418

Political Ideology 420

Autocratic Ideologies 422

- Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism 422
- Totalitarianism of the Right:
 - Fascism and Nazism 423
- Totalitarianism of the Left:
 - Communism 425
- Communism in Disarray 429

Democracy 434

- Democratic Capitalism 435
- Socialism 437

The Chapter in Brief 439

Terms to Remember 440

Suggested Reading 441

Reading: John Elson, "Has History Come to an End?" 442

Chapter 16 *Government: Theory and the American Experience* 445

Government and Politics 447

- Purpose of Government 447
- Functions of Government 448
- Political Power: Legitimacy and Authority 448
- Types of Legitimate Authority 450
- The State and Its Government 451
- Theoretical Views of the State 452
- The Nation-State 453

Birth of a Nation: The Emergence of American Political Institutions 453

- The Constitutional Convention 454
- What Is a Constitution? 454

The Constitution of the United States 455

- Federalism 456
- Separation of Powers 459

The Presidency: The Executive Branch 460

- The Nature of the Presidency 461
- The Presidency: The Person and the Office 462

Congress: The Legislative Branch 463

- The Issue of Representation 464
- Congressional Organization 464

The Supreme Court: The Judicial Branch 468

- The Court System 468
- Functions of the Judicial System 469
- The Importance of Limited Government 470

The Chapter in Brief 471

Terms to Remember 472

Suggested Reading 473

Reading: Thurgood Marshall, "Celebrating the Constitution: A Dissent" 474

Chapter 17 *Democracy in Action: We, the People* 478

Political Power 479

- Majoritarianism, Pluralism, and Elitism 480

Interest Groups 483

- Functions of Interest Groups 485
- Formation and Growth of Interest Groups 486
- Shortcomings of Interest Groups 488