

SOURCES

Notable Selections in Sociology



KURT FINSTERBUSCH * JANET S. SCHWARTZ

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Notable Selections in *Sociology*

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The Dushkin Publishing Group, Inc.

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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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 into your hands directly those researchers and writers whose works have enduring value for the study of society.

Sources: Notable Selections in Sociology brings together 44 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 Mills on the sociological imagination to Bernard on the female world and Bell on technology and social change. 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. Each 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 selections 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.

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

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 The Dushkin Publishing Group, Sluice Dock, Guilford, CT 06437.

Kurt Finsterbusch

Janet S. Schwartz

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"The fascination of sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives."

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

"Perhaps the most fruitful distinction with which the sociological imagination works is between 'the personal troubles of milieu' and 'the public issues of social structure.' "

PART TWO *The Individual and Society* 13

CHAPTER 2 Culture 15

- 2.1 CLYDE KLUCKHOHN**, from *Mirror for Man: The Relation of Anthropology to Modern Life* 15

"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."

CHAPTER 3 Socialization and Personality Development 36

3.1 GEORGE HERBERT MEAD, from *Mind, Self and Society* 36

"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 DAVID ELKIND, from "Erik Erikson's Eight Ages of Man: One Man in His Time Plays Many Psychosocial Parts," *The New York Times Magazine* 41

"Erikson identifies eight stages in the human life cycle, in each of which a new dimension of 'social interaction' becomes possible."

3.3 LENORE J. WEITZMAN, DEBORAH EIFLER, ELIZABETH HOKADA, AND CATHERINE ROSS, from "Sex-Role Socialization in Picture Books for Preschool Children," *American Journal of Sociology* 51

"[W]omen in picture books have status by virtue of their relationships to specific men—they are the wives of the kings, judges, adventurers, and explorers, but they themselves are not the rulers, judges, adventurers, and explorers."

3.4 J. ALLEN WILLIAMS, JR., JOETTA A. VERNON, MARTHA C. WILLIAMS, AND KAREN MALECHA, from "Sex-Role Socialization in Picture Books: An Update," *Social Science Quarterly* 60

"[T]he most telling finding is the near unanimity in conformity to traditional gender roles. Not only does Jane express no career goals, but there is no adult female model to provide any ambition."

- 4.1 PETER L. BERGER**, from *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective* 65

"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* 72

"Information about the individual helps to define the situation, enabling others to know in advance what he will expect of them and what they may expect of him."

CHAPTER 5 Deviance and Social Control 81

- 5.1 ROBERT K. MERTON**, from *Social Theory and Social Structure* 81

"Contemporary American culture appears to approximate the polar type in which great emphasis upon certain success-goals occurs without equivalent emphasis upon institutional means."

- 5.2 EDWIN H. SUTHERLAND AND DONALD R. CRESSEY**, from *Principles of Criminology*, 7th ed. 92

"A person becomes delinquent because of an excess of definitions favorable to violation of law over definitions unfavorable to violation of law. This is the principle of differential association."

- 5.3 STANLEY MILGRAM**, from "Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority," *Human Relations* 96

"With numbing regularity good people were seen to knuckle under the demands of authority and perform actions that were callous and severe. Men who are in everyday life 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 *Thinking About Crime* 108

"[A] large proportion of repeat offenders suffer little or no loss of freedom. Whether or not one believes that such penalties, if inflicted, would act as a deterrent, it is obvious that they could serve to incapacitate these offenders and thus, for the period of the incapacitation, prevent them from committing additional crimes."

*Notable
Selections in
Sociology*

6.1 CHARLES HORTON COOLEY, from *Social Organization* 116

"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 K. MERTON, from *Social Theory and Social Structure* 120

"[T]he bureaucratic structure exerts a constant pressure upon the official to be 'methodical, prudent, disciplined.' If the bureaucracy is to operate successfully, it must attain a high degree of reliability of behavior, an unusual degree of conformity with prescribed patterns of action."

PART THREE *Stratification* 127

CHAPTER 7 Social Inequality 129

7.1 KARL MARX AND FRIEDRICH ENGELS, from *The Communist Manifesto* 129

"Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight."

7.2 KINGSLEY DAVIS AND WILBERT E. MOORE, from "Some Principles of Stratification," *American Sociological Review* 139

"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 ROBERT MICHELS, from *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy* 143

"Organization implies the tendency to oligarchy. In every organization, whether it be a political party, a professional union, or any other association of the kind, the aristocratic tendency manifests itself very clearly."

8.1 C. WRIGHT MILLS, from *The Power Elite* 147

"[T]he leading men in each of the three domains of power—the warlords, the corporation chieftains, the political directorate—tend to come together, to form the power elite of America."

8.2 CLARENCE N. STONE, from "Systemic Power in Community Decision Making: A Restatement of Stratification Theory," *The American Political Science Review* 154

"[B]ecause officials operate within a stratified system, they find themselves rewarded for cooperating with upper-strata interests and unrewarded or even penalized for cooperating with lower-strata interests."

CHAPTER 9 The Poor 165

9.1 HERBERT J. GANS, from "The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All," *Social Policy* 165

"[P]overty and the poor may well satisfy a number of positive functions for many nonpoor groups in American society."

9.2 ELLIOT LIEBOW, from *Tally's Corner* 170

"[T]he most important fact is that a man who is able and willing to work cannot earn enough money to support himself, his wife, and one or more children."

CHAPTER 10 Racial and Sexual Inequality 177

10.1 WILLIAM JULIUS WILSON, from "The Black Community in the 1980s: Questions of Race, Class, and Public Policy," *THE ANNALS of The American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 177

"[E]ven if all racial discrimination in labor-market practices were eliminated, unless there were a serious attempt to address the problems of structural barriers to decent jobs, the economic position of poor Blacks would not improve significantly."

10.2 JESSIE BERNARD, from *The Female World* 186

"[E]ven when women have not been segregated into enclaves on the work scene, they have nevertheless lived in a different work world from that of men. . . . Even when they are not spatially separated from the male work world, women are socially and psychologically separated."

CHAPTER 11 The Polity 199

- 11.1 CHARLES PETERS**, from "From Ouagadougou to Cape Canaveral: Why the Bad News Doesn't Travel Up," *The Washington Monthly* 199

"The good leader . . . must have some independent knowledge of what's going on down below in order to have a feel for whether the chain of command is giving him the straight dope."

- 11.2 CHARLES E. LINDBLOM**, from "The Science of 'Muddling Through,'" *Public Administration Review* 206

"Democracies change their policies almost entirely through incremental adjustments. Policy does not move in leaps and bounds."

CHAPTER 12 The Corporate World 214

- 12.1 MARK DOWIE**, from "Pinto Madness," *Mother Jones* 214

"[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."

- 12.2 ROSABETH MOSS KANTER**, from *Men and Women of the Corporation* 226

"Conformity pressures and the development of exclusive management circles closed to 'outsiders' stem from the degree of uncertainty surrounding managerial positions."

CHAPTER 13 The Family 235

- 13.1 ARLENE S. SKOLNICK AND JEROME H. SKOLNICK**, from *Family in Transition: Rethinking Marriage, Sexuality, Child Rearing, and Family Organization*, 2d ed. 235

"[I]ntimacy provides not only love and care, but often tension and conflict as well . . . these are inseparable parts of intimate relationships."

- 13.2 PETER L. BERGER AND HANSFRIED KELLNER**, from "Marriage and the Construction of Reality," *Diogenes* 245

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

CHAPTER 14 Other Institutions: Religion, Education, and Health Care 257

- 14.1 ROSE LAUB COSER AND LEWIS COSER**, "Jonestown as a Perverse Utopia," *Dissent* 257

"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."

- 14.2 CHRISTOPHER J. HURN**, from *The Limits and Possibilities of Schooling* 265

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

- 14.3 D. L. ROSENHAN**, from "On Being Sane in Insane Places," *Science* 276

"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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CHAPTER 15 Population and Environment 285

- 15.1 PAUL R. EHRLICH AND ANNE H. EHRLICH**, "World Population Crisis," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 285

"Earth is overpopulated today by a very simple standard: humanity is able to support itself . . . only by consuming its capital."

15.2 LESTER R. BROWN, CHRISTOPHER FLAVIN, AND EDWARD C. WOLF, "Earth's Vital Signs," *The Futurist* 290

"In giving the earth a physical examination, checking its vital signs, we find that the readings are not reassuring: The planet's forests are shrinking, its deserts expanding, and its soils eroding—all at record rates."

CHAPTER 16 Community 301

16.1 ROBERT REDFIELD, from "Antecedents of Urban Life: The Folk Society," *American Journal of Sociology* 301

"[I]n the ideal folk society, what one man knows and believes is the same as what all men know and believe. Habits are the same as customs."

16.2 LOUIS WIRTH, from "Urbanism as a Way of Life," *American Journal of Sociology* 308

"[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 nevertheless impersonal, superficial, transitory, and segmental."

CHAPTER 17 Social Movements and Collective Behavior 313

17.1 MANCUR OLSON, JR., from *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups* 313

"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."

17.2 WILLIAM A. GAMSON, from "Violence and Political Power: The Meek Don't Make It," *Psychology Today* 324

"The successful group in American politics is not the polite petitioner who carefully observes all the rules. It is the rambunctious fighter, one with limited goals, that can elbow its way into the arena."

CHAPTER 18 Modernization and Social Change 331

18.1 IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN, from "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 331

"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."

- 18.2 BLAIR A. RUBLE**, from "The Soviet Union's Quiet Revolution," in George W. Breslaver, ed., *Can Gorbachev's Reforms Succeed?* 342

"[T]he perestroika launched by Mikhail Gorbachev . . . began a generation or more before with a 'revolution of the mind' that accompanied the Soviet Union's transition from a rural to an urban society."

- 18.3 DANIEL BELL**, from "The Third Technological Revolution: And Its Possible Socioeconomic Consequences," *Dissent* 351

"We are today on the rising slope of a third technological revolution. . . . [A]nd its consequences may be even greater than the previous two technological revolutions that reshaped the West."

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PART ONE

*Introduction to
Sociology*

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CHAPTER 1 The Sociological Perspective

1.1 PETER L. BERGER

Sociology as an Individual Pastime

What is sociology and what are the defining characteristics of a sociologist? Among the best answers to these questions are those given by Peter L. Berger. Berger (b. 1929) is the director of the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture at Boston University and a prominent contemporary sociologist who is known for his pithy prose. In the following selection from his book *Invitation to Sociology*, Berger explains that sociology involves the passion to deeply understand the everyday social reality around us. The sociologist is a passionate questioner. Sociologists also desire to help people and improve society, but these characteristics are not unique to sociologists. They share these passions with many citizens and many other professions. According to Berger, sociologists are relatively unique in that they seek to understand society not as it is taught in Sunday school (i.e., not the way it should be) but as it actually is. Those who fear or are eager to avoid what Berger calls “shocking discoveries” should best stay away from sociology. *Invitation to Sociology*, first published in 1963, is considered to be one of the best statements on sociology and sociologists.

Key Concept: sociology as the passion to understand

The sociologist . . . is someone concerned with understanding society in a disciplined way. The nature of this discipline is scientific. This means that what the sociologist finds and says about the social phenomena he studies