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# SOCIOLOGY

97/98



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# SOCIOLOGY 97/98

*Twenty-Sixth Edition*



## Editor

**Kurt Finsterbusch**

University of Maryland, College Park

Kurt Finsterbusch received his bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University in 1957, and his 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 several books, including *Understanding Social Impacts* (Sage Publications, 1980), *Social Research for Policy Decisions* (Wadsworth Publishing, 1980, with Annabelle Bender Motz), and *Organizational Change as a Development Strategy* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1987, with Jerald Hage). He is currently teaching at the University of Maryland, College Park, and, in addition to serving as editor for *Annual Editions: Sociology*, he is also coeditor for Dushkin/McGraw-Hill's *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Social Issues*.

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Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of ANNUAL EDITIONS. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think that you will find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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# To the Reader

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In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the *public press* in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Many of these articles are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully *collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced* in a *low-cost format*, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by ANNUAL EDITIONS. Under the direction of each volume's *academic editor*, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an *Advisory Board*, each year we seek to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think that you will find this volume useful, and we hope that you will take a moment to let us know what you think.

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**B**oth the 1990s and the 1980s are full of crises, changes, and challenges. Crime is running rampant. The public is demanding more police, more jails, and tougher sentences, but less government spending. The economy suffers from foreign competition, trade deficits, budget deficits, and economic uncertainties. Government social policies seem to create almost as many problems as they solve. Laborers, women, blacks, and many other groups complain of injustices and victimization. The use of toxic chemicals has been blamed for increases in cancer, sterility, and other diseases. Marriage and the family have been transformed, in part by the women's movement and in part by the stress that current conditions create for women who try to combine family and careers. Schools, television, and corporations are commonly vilified. Add to all this the problems of population growth, ozone depletion, and the greenhouse effect, and it is easy to despair. Nevertheless, crises also provide opportunities.

The present generation may determine the course of history for the next 200 years. Great changes are taking place, and new solutions are being sought where old answers no longer work. The issues the current generation faces are complex and must be interpreted within a sophisticated framework. The sociological perspective provides such a framework. It expects people to act in terms of their position in the social structure; the political, economic, and social forces operating on them; and the norms that govern the situation. *Annual Editions: Sociology 97/98* should help you develop the sociological perspective that

will enable you to determine how the issues of the day relate to the way society is structured. The essays provide not only information but also models of interpretation and analysis that will guide you as you form your own views.

*Annual Editions: Sociology 97/98* emphasizes social change, institutional crises, and prospects for the future. It provides intellectual preparation for acting for the betterment of humanity in times of crucial change. The sociological perspective is needed more than ever as humankind tries to find a way to peace, prosperity, health, and well-being that can be maintained for generations in an improving environment. The obstacles that lie in the path of these important goals seem to increase yearly. The aims of this edition are to communicate to students the excitement and importance of the study of the social world and to provoke interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of sociology.

*Annual Editions* depends upon reader response to develop and change. You are encouraged to return the postage-paid *article rating form* at the back of the book with your opinions about existing readings, recommendations of articles you think have sociological merit for subsequent editions, and advice on how the anthology can be made more useful as a teaching and learning tool.



Kurt Finsterbusch  
Editor

Dedicated to Josephine for her 87 years of concern about social issues.

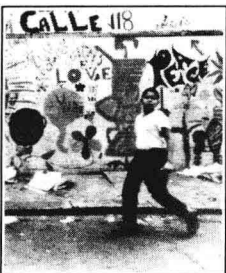
## UNIT 1



### Culture

Five selections consider what our culture can learn from primitive peoples, what forces are shaping today's cultures and lifestyles, and what impact crises have on culture.

## UNIT 2



### Socialization and Social Control

Six articles examine the effects of social influences on childhood, personality, and human behavior with regard to the socialization of the individual.

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#### A. TRIBAL CULTURES AND THEIR LESSONS FOR US

1. **Tribal Wisdom**, David Maybury-Lewis, *Utne Reader*, July/August 1992. 6  
David Maybury-Lewis contrasts *modern lifestyles* that place value on things with *tribal lifestyles* that place value on people. The individualism of modern life is contrasted with the relative uniformity of values and the dominating role of the community in tribal life.
2. **The Mountain People**, Colin M. Turnbull, *Intellectual Digest*, April 1973. 12  
Colin Turnbull's study of the Ik shows what happens to *social relationships* in a *culture* when certain elements in the *environment* threaten its existence.

#### B. FORCES SHAPING CULTURES AND LIFESTYLES

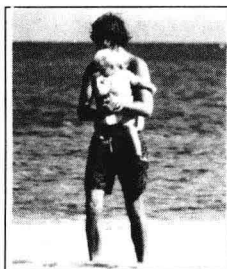
3. **Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans?** Jeff Davidson, *Vital Speeches of the Day*, May 15, 1993. 22  
The shrinkage of *leisure time* is related to *population growth*, expanding *knowledge*, *media*, the *paper trail*, and *overabundant choices*. Life in the future will be even more frenetic unless we better understand our finiteness.
4. **A De-Moralized Society: The British/American Experience**, Gertrude Himmelfarb, *American Educator*, Winter 1994/1995. 26  
*Crime*, illegitimacy ratios, divorce rates, and other statistics indicate that *moral standards* have declined in the United States to the point where much that was abnormal and illegitimate has become normal and legitimate. Part of the problem is the widespread retreat from public *moral judgments*.
5. **The Decline of Bourgeois America**, Stanley Rothman, *Society*, January/February 1996. 32  
Stanley Rothman analyzes the cultural underpinnings and psychological *structures that underlie capitalism and democracy*. Now new values of expressive individualism and collectivist liberalism are replacing the bourgeois values of hard work and self-restraint, with significant impacts on both economic and social spheres.

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#### A. CHILDHOOD AND INFLUENCES ON PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOR

6. **Guns and Dolls**, Laura Shapiro, *Newsweek*, May 28, 1990. 42  
The differences between boys and girls persist despite the massive social changes of the last several decades, thus raising the question of whether *gender roles* are rooted in biology. Recent research has documented innate differences, but most differences are the product of socialization.
7. **Children of the Universe**, Amitai Etzioni, *Utne Reader*, May/June 1993. 46  
A well-raised child is a blessing to the parents and a benefit to the *community*. Today there is a gigantic *parenting deficit* that cannot be solved by child-care centers. Parents should fulfill their parenting duties, and corporations should assist them.

# UNIT 3



## Groups and Roles in Transition

Nine articles discuss some of the social roles and group relationships that are in transition in today's society. Topics include primary and secondary groups and the reevaluation of social choices.

## B. CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND SOCIAL CONTROL

8. **Crime in America: Violent and Irrational—and That's Just the Policy**, *The Economist*, June 8, 1996. 51  
America is not experiencing a crime wave, nor is it more criminal than other countries, but it does have the highest murder rate. America also excels in deplorable *criminal justice policies*.
9. **Moral Credibility and Crime**, Paul H. Robinson, *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 1995. 54  
The United States has tried to halt *crime* and has failed. *Rehabilitation* does not work. The solution to the crime problem is a criminal justice system that has *moral authority* and a society that strongly *disapproves* of criminal acts.
10. **When Violence Hits Home**, Jill Smolowe, *Time*, July 4, 1994. 60  
*Domestic abuse* is the side of the crime picture that does not get displayed. Jill Smolowe breaks the silence and describes the depth and duration of the resulting pain.
11. **Legalization Madness**, James A. Inciardi and Christine A. Saum, *The Public Interest*, Spring 1996. 64  
*The drug war* is failing so badly that many are arguing for the legalization of some drugs, especially marijuana. James Inciardi and Christine Saum warn of the problems with this argument and the awful human toll such a policy would have.

## Overview 68

## A. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

12. **The Way We Weren't: The Myth and Reality of the "Traditional" Family**, Stephanie Coontz, *National Forum*, Summer 1995. 70  
Stephanie Coontz outlines the evolution of family forms throughout American history to show that the current nostalgic longing for the traditional family form of the 1950s is in vain, because that family form was unusual and depended on circumstances that no longer hold. Instead, *America needs new solutions to family and societal problems*.
13. **Where's Papa?** David Popenoe, *Utne Reader*, September/October 1996. 74  
David Popenoe documents *the decline of fatherhood* while demonstrating its importance. The difference in the approaches to parenting of mothers and fathers makes both necessary for optimal child rearing.
14. **Modernizing Marriage**, Pepper Schwartz, *Psychology Today*, September/October 1994. 78  
An increasing number of couples have successfully reconstructed *gender roles* on a genuinely *equitable basis*. Pepper Schwartz calls this "*peer marriage*," describes how it differs from traditional marriage, and considers its benefits and costs.

## UNIT 4



### Stratification and Social Inequalities

Nine selections discuss the social stratification and inequalities that exist in today's society with regard to the rich, the poor, blacks, and women.

#### B. SEX, GENDER, AND GENDER RELATIONSHIPS

15. **Now for the Truth about Americans and Sex**, Philip Elmer-Dewitt, *Time*, October 17, 1994. 82  
The author reviews the findings of the only reliable large-scale survey of American *sexual attitudes and practices*. This study corrects a number of myths with substantial data, including evidence that Americans are less sexually active and more faithful sexually than is commonly supposed.
16. **Ending the Battle between the Sexes**, Aaron R. Kipnis and Elizabeth Herron, *Utne Reader*, January/February 1993. 86  
*Sex roles* and *male-female relationships* are changing but not without confusion, *conflict*, and misunderstandings. Aaron Kipnis and Elizabeth Herron, who are in the business of improving communication between men and women, describe the sensitive issues and friction points.
17. **Men: Tomorrow's Second Sex**, *The Economist*, September 28, 1996. 90  
Women do better than men in school and are catching up to men in the labor force. Future job expansion is expected in the *jobs dominated by women*. The future prospects for nonprofessional men are poor.

#### C. COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY ACTION

18. **Crisis of Community: Make America Work for Americans**, William Raspberry, *Vital Speeches of the Day*, June 1, 1995. 94  
The *crisis of community* is that the "single-minded pursuit of *group advantage* threatens to rip us apart at the seams," according to William Raspberry. *Victimization* is destroying community, he asserts.
19. **The Strange Disappearance of Civic America**, Robert D. Putnam, *The American Prospect*, Winter 1996. 98  
Robert Putnam unravels the mystery of *the disappearance of an active civic life* in America. Without the participation and social trust that are aspects of civic life, social behavior is less positive and institutions function less effectively.
20. **Are Today's Suburbs Really Family-Friendly?** Karl Zinsmeister, *The American Enterprise*, November/December 1996. 108  
*Family values* contribute greatly to decisions to live in the suburbs, but suburbs cut social roots, impede neighborly social life, and suppress community life (especially when both parents work outside the home).

#### Overview 114

#### A. INCOME INEQUALITIES AND THE POOR

21. **Winner Take All**, Robert H. Frank and Philip J. Cook, *Across the Board*, May 1996. 116  
Winner-take-all markets (rewards depend on relative performance) are spreading and becoming overcrowded. This situation *increases inequality*, wastes talent, and increases frustrations.
22. **Working Harder, Getting Nowhere**, Nancy Gibbs, *Time*, July 3, 1995. 120  
Nancy Gibbs tells the story of millions of Americans who are the *working poor* or are on the edge of poverty. Today, two-earner couples have to work hard even to scrape by.



23. **Poverty's Children: Growing Up in the South Bronx**, 123  
Jonathan Kozol, *The Progressive*, October 1995.  
Jonathan Kozol paints with words the poignant picture of some people who live in a terrifying neighborhood in grinding *poverty*.
- B. WELFARE**
24. **Upside-Down Welfare**, Daniel D. Huff, *Public Welfare*, 127  
Winter 1992.  
The thesis of the upside-down welfare state is that most welfare goes to the middle- and upper-income classes, and less than 10 percent goes to the poor. Most welfare consists of *subsidies, tax breaks, and other handouts* for the affluent and the corporations.
25. **Dismantling the Welfare State: Is It the Answer to America's Social Problems?** D. Stanley Eitzen, *Vital Speeches of the Day*, June 15, 1996. 131  
D. Stanley Eitzen argues that *welfare is falsely blamed* for out-of-wedlock births and poverty itself. The current attack on welfare will have terrible effects, including increasing crime, social unrest, and alienation. Progressive policies could solve our social problems.
- C. RACIAL INEQUALITIES**
26. **Whites' Myths about Blacks**, *U.S. News & World Report*, 136  
November 9, 1992.  
Though whites' attitudes towards blacks have improved greatly, whites still entertain many *unfavorable myths* about blacks, which this article counters with facts.
27. **Affirmative Action: It Benefits Everyone and Let's Get Rid of It**, Jesse L. Jackson and Armstrong Williams, *The World & I*, November 1995. 138  
In the first part of this two-part article, Rev. Jesse Jackson dispels false beliefs about *affirmative action*, and relates how he believes the whole nation benefits from it. Armstrong Williams then presents his thesis that "making judgments based on race is racism, any way you want to cover it over," and affirmative action should be dropped.
- D. SEX INEQUALITIES**
28. **The Longest Climb**, Lisa Mainiero, *Psychology Today*, November/December 1994. 146  
A few women are making it to the top of *corporate America*, and Lisa Mainiero interviewed 55 of them. She describes how they got there and derives some lessons for others who want to follow their path, including the observation that *feminine leadership styles* have some notable advantages over masculine styles.
29. **Violence against Women**, Toni Nelson, *World Watch*, July/August 1996. 149  
A major *civil rights failure worldwide* is the widespread suppression of women and violence against women as expressed in rape, female infanticide, bride burning, enforced prostitution, domestic abuse, and female genital mutilation. These are most common in Third World countries, but the problem of rape and wife abuse is still common in the United States.

# UNIT 5



## Social Institutions: Issues, Crises, and Changes

Nine articles examine several social institutions that are currently in crisis. Selections focus on the political, economic, and social spheres, as well as the overall state of the nation.

### Overview

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#### A. THE POLITICAL SPHERE

30. **Money Changes Everything**, Daniel Clawson, Alan Neustadt, and Denise Scott, from *Money Talks*, Basic Books, 1992. 156  
The nitty-gritty of the political system is portrayed here. *The role of the corporate PACs* in influencing the federal government is explained. They do not buy votes, but they buy access. Corporations who lobby usually do not succeed in preventing the passage of a bill that they oppose, but they often do succeed in changing its wording so that it does not harm them.
31. **Hyper Democracy**, Robert Wright, *Time*, January 23, 1995. 162  
According to Robert Wright, Washington is not out of touch with the people, but it is bombarded by their opinions through polls, messages, and visits. The result is not better *democracy* but *hyperpluralism* and hampered governance.
32. **The Death of Common Sense**, Philip K. Howard, *U.S. News & World Report*, January 30, 1995. 166  
Philip Howard pokes fun at many *laws and regulations* that produce absurd results. Rules and regulations are necessary, but governments must recognize their limits and keep them few and flexible.

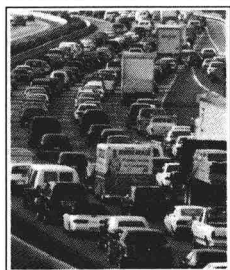
#### B. THE ECONOMIC SPHERE

33. **Reinventing the Corporation**, Jonathan Rowe, *The Washington Monthly*, April 1996. 171  
Jonathan Rowe presents *the history of the corporation*, the type of organization that is the dominant force in the world today. Before 1890, corporations were accountable to state governments. Then licensing standards plummeted. Now new forms of accountability are needed.
34. **The Revolution in the Workplace: What's Happening to Our Jobs?** David Pearce Snyder, *The Futurist*, March/April 1996. 179  
Technologies and restructuring are eliminating good jobs. Average wages have declined in the last two decades. David Pearce Snyder predicts *adverse future job trends* and explores their likely consequences.

#### C. THE SOCIAL SPHERE: ABORTION, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND RELIGION

35. **Seeking Abortion's Middle Ground**, Frederica Mathewes-Green, *Washington Post*, July 28, 1996. 184  
America is deeply polarized over *the abortion issue* and needs more spokespersons for *the middle ground*, says Frederica Mathewes-Green. Her focus is on making abortion unnecessary.
36. **Health Unlimited**, Willard Gaylin, *Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 1996. 187  
Health care costs keep rising because modern medicine is successful in keeping people alive longer, thus having more lifetime medical problems, and because more conditions are treated as medical problems each decade. At this point, society must openly discuss *health care rationing*, says Willard Gaylin.

# UNIT 6



## Social Change and the Future

Six selections discuss the impact that population, technology, environmental stress, and social values will have on society's future.

37. **A New Vision for City Schools**, Diane Ravitch and Joseph Viteritti, *The Public Interest*, Winter 1996.  
*Recent initiatives are shifting schools* from a bureaucratic system that prizes compliance to a deregulated system that focuses on student performance. Promising innovations include charter schools, contracts for performance, and increased choice. 191
38. **Can Churches Save America?** *U.S. News & World Report*, September 9, 1996. 197  
Many people would like to get the government out of *the business of helping the needy and turn the job over to religious programs* that have a laudable record of success. This essay contends that churches cannot replace government in providing aid, but *their role should be expanded*.

## Overview 200

### A. POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND SOCIETY

39. **Carrying Capacity: Earth's Bottom Line**, Sandra Postel, *Challenge*, March/April 1994. 202  
The doubling of the world *population* since 1950, the quintupling of *global economic output*, and the growing *inequality* in the distribution of world income put immense pressure on *Earth's capacity* to support the human population. Earth's resource base is degrading or declining. The trends are especially foreboding in croplands, pasture and rangelands, fisheries, fresh water, and forests. Many changes are necessary in the way humans use Earth and its resources.
40. **The New Assault on Immigrants**, Luis Gutierrez, *Social Policy*, Summer 1995. 211  
The current assault on *immigrants* assumes that immigrants are adversely affecting America. Congressman Luis Gutierrez shows that the facts are otherwise. Immigrants *contribute* more in taxes than they cost governments, and on many measures they outperform native-born Americans.

### B. TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

41. **Alone Together: Will Being Wired Set Us Free?** Andrew Kupfer, *Fortune*, March 20, 1995. 217  
*"Information technology* is poised to alter the scope of human intercourse," writes Andrew Kupfer. *Work, home life, residential location*, and many other aspects of life will be dramatically affected by the new technologies.
42. **The Price of Fanaticism**, Bruce W. Nelan, *Time*, April 3, 1995. 221  
Technological advances have greatly increased the potential human costs of *terrorism*. Terrible *biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons* are within easy reach of terrorist groups, and American security forces are very concerned.

### C. THE FUTURE

43. **The Coming Anarchy**, Robert D. Kaplan, *The Atlantic Monthly*, February 1994. 223  
Robert Kaplan warns that "disease, *overpopulation*, unprovoked *crime*, *scarcity* of resources, *refugee* migrations, the increasing erosion of nation-states and international borders, and the empowerment of private armies, security firms, and international drug cartels" are growing problems throughout the world. They are causing *social disorganization*, and the past changes will be small compared to the ones coming soon.
44. **Operating in a Period of Punctuated Equilibrium**, Lester C. Thurow, from *The Future of Capitalism: How Today's Economic Forces Shape Tomorrow's World*, William Morrow & Co., 1996. 228  
*American capitalism*, with its growing inequality and its inability to satisfy the public, is in deep trouble, writes Lester Thurow. Since it declines slowly, however, no appropriate corrective actions are taken. Neither television nor American ideologies teach sacrificing to build the future. Capitalism faces stagnation unless it undergoes a profound metamorphosis.

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## Selected World Wide Web Sites for Sociology

(Some Web sites are continually changing their structure and content, so the information listed here may not always be available.)

### BUBL (BULLETIN Board for Libraries) Information Server

<http://www.bubl.bath.ac.uk/BUBL/Sociology.html> This site includes links to U.S. National Data Archives on population studies, child abuse, disaster research center, men's issues, United Nations Gopher server, *CIA World Fact Book*, postmodern culture, and many other topics. It also links to the WWW Virtual Library in Sociology and the Virtual Library of Demographic and Population Studies.

### Humanities HUB and Census Data

<http://www.gu.edu.au/gwis/hub/hub.socio.html> This site offers a wide range of references for the sociological researcher: the European Sociological Association, the American Communication Association, population study links, data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Eurostat, and data archives from many other countries. Other links offer access to discussion groups on conversation analysis, globalization, and a range of other topics.

### American Sociological Association (ASA)

<http://www.asanet.org> This is the home page for the American Sociological Association that includes many of its journals: *American Sociological Review*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Socio-*

*logical Theory*, *Sociology of Education*, *Teaching Sociology*, and many others. It also provides membership information, convention and conference announcements, and links to sites operated by special interest sections of the ASA.

### Society for Applied Sociology

<http://www.indiana.edu/~appsoc/> This site was developed for professionals involved in applying sociological knowledge to a variety of settings. It includes access to *Journal of Applied Sociology Information* and *Social Insight*, and it lists relevant conferences.

### Other Links of Interest

[http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/Other\\_links.html](http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/Other_links.html) This British site offers an enormous number of links to a world-wide collection of journals and magazines. It also offers links to libraries, data archives, and sociological associations, and it provides information on new sites that have appeared on the WWW.

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# Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to students and professionals involved with the study of sociology. It is useful for locating articles that relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
African Americans	26. Whites' Myths about Blacks	Employment	22. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 34. Revolution in the Workplace
Capitalism	5. Decline of Bourgeois America 44. Operating in a Period of Punctuated Equilibrium	Family/Marriage	2. Mountain People 7. Children of the Universe 10. When Violence Hits Home 12. The Way We Weren't 13. Where's Papa? 14. Modernizing Marriage 16. Ending the Battle between the Sexes 29. Violence against Women
Children/Childhood	2. Mountain People 6. Guns and Dolls 7. Children of the Universe 12. The Way We Weren't 13. Where's Papa? 23. Poverty's Children	Future	39. Carrying Capacity 43. Coming Anarchy 44. Operating in a Period of Punctuated Equilibrium
Community	1. Tribal Wisdom 7. Children of the Universe 18. Crisis of Community 19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America 20. Are Today's Suburbs Really Family-Friendly? 23. Poverty's Children	Immigration	40. New Assault on Immigrants
Crime	8. Crime in America 9. Moral Credibility and Crime 10. When Violence Hits Home 42. Price of Fanaticism	Individualism	1. Tribal Wisdom 5. Decline of Bourgeois America 7. Children of the Universe 19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America
Culture	1. Tribal Wisdom 2. Mountain People 4. De-Moralized Society 5. Decline of Bourgeois America 6. Guns and Dolls 12. The Way We Weren't 35. Seeking Abortion's Middle Ground	Law Enforcement	8. Crime in America 9. Moral Credibility and Crime 10. When Violence Hits Home 11. Legalization Madness 42. Price of Fanaticism 43. Coming Anarchy
Democracy	31. Hyper Democracy	Leadership	28. Longest Climb
Demography	39. Carrying Capacity 40. New Assault on Immigrants	Leisure	3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans?
Discrimination	26. Whites' Myths about Blacks 27. Affirmative Action 29. Violence against Women	Lifestyles	1. Tribal Wisdom 2. Mountain People 19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America 20. Are Today's Suburbs Really Family-Friendly? 22. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 23. Poverty's Children
Disorganization	43. Coming Anarchy	Market/Business	5. Decline of Bourgeois America 33. Reinventing the Corporation
Drugs	11. Legalization Madness	Marriage	See Family/Marriage
Ecology/Environment	2. Mountain People 39. Carrying Capacity 43. Coming Anarchy	Politics/Government	19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America 24. Upside-Down Welfare 25. Dismantling the Welfare State 30. Money Changes Everything 31. Hyper Democracy 32. Death of Common Sense 43. Coming Anarchy
Economy	21. Winner Take All 22. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere 33. Reinventing the Corporation 34. Revolution in the Workplace 43. Coming Anarchy		
Education	6. Guns and Dolls 37. New Vision for City Schools		

TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN	TOPIC AREA	TREATED IN
Population Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans?</li> <li>39. Carrying Capacity</li> <li>43. Coming Anarchy</li> </ul>	Social Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mountain People</li> <li>4. De-Moralized Society</li> <li>10. When Violence Hits Home</li> <li>12. The Way We Weren't</li> <li>13. Where's Papa?</li> <li>14. Modernizing Marriage</li> <li>16. Ending the Battle between the Sexes</li> <li>18. Crisis of Community</li> <li>29. Violence against Women</li> </ul>
Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mountain People</li> <li>23. Poverty's Children</li> <li>43. Coming Anarchy</li> </ul>	Socialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Guns and Dolls</li> <li>7. Children of the Universe</li> <li>13. Where's Papa?</li> </ul>
Race/Ethnic Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Crisis of Community</li> <li>26. Whites' Myths about Blacks</li> <li>27. Affirmative Action</li> </ul>	Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Alone Together</li> <li>42. Price of Fanaticism</li> </ul>
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. Death of Common Sense</li> </ul>	Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42. Price of Fanaticism</li> </ul>
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38. Can Churches Save America?</li> </ul>	Underclass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. Poverty's Children</li> <li>25. Dismantling the Welfare State</li> </ul>
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Guns and Dolls</li> <li>13. Where's Papa?</li> <li>16. Ending the Battle between the Sexes</li> <li>17. Men</li> </ul>	Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Work/Unemployment</li> </ul>
Sex Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Guns and Dolls</li> <li>16. Ending the Battle between the Sexes</li> <li>17. Men</li> <li>28. Longest Climb</li> </ul>	Upper Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Upside-Down Welfare</li> <li>28. Longest Climb</li> </ul>
Sexism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29. Violence against Women</li> </ul>	Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tribal Wisdom</li> <li>2. Mountain People</li> <li>4. De-Moralized Society</li> <li>5. Decline of Bourgeois America</li> <li>7. Children of the Universe</li> <li>9. Moral Credibility and Crime</li> <li>15. Now for the Truth about Americans and Sex</li> <li>18. Crisis of Community</li> <li>19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America</li> <li>20. Are Today's Suburbs Really Family-Friendly?</li> <li>35. Seeking Abortion's Middle Ground</li> </ul>
Sexual Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Now for the Truth about Americans and Sex</li> </ul>	Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. De-Moralized Society</li> <li>8. Crime in America</li> <li>10. When Violence Hits Home</li> <li>42. Price of Fanaticism</li> </ul>
Social Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Mountain People</li> <li>3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans?</li> <li>4. De-Moralized Society</li> <li>5. Decline of Bourgeois America</li> <li>12. The Way We Weren't</li> <li>13. Where's Papa?</li> <li>14. Modernizing Marriage</li> <li>17. Men</li> <li>19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America</li> <li>31. Hyper Democracy</li> <li>33. Reinventing the Corporation</li> <li>34. Revolution in the Workplace</li> <li>36. Health Unlimited</li> <li>43. Coming Anarchy</li> <li>44. Operating in a Period of Punctuated Equilibrium</li> </ul>	Volunteerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. Strange Disappearance of Civic America</li> </ul>
Social Class/Stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Winner Take All</li> <li>22. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere</li> <li>23. Poverty's Children</li> <li>24. Upside-Down Welfare</li> <li>25. Dismantling the Welfare State</li> <li>26. Whites' Myths about Blacks</li> <li>27. Affirmative Action</li> <li>28. Longest Climb</li> <li>29. Violence against Women</li> <li>31. Hyper Democracy</li> </ul>	Wealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere</li> </ul>
Social Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. De-Moralized Society</li> <li>7. Children of the Universe</li> <li>8. Crime in America</li> <li>9. Moral Credibility and Crime</li> <li>10. When Violence Hits Home</li> <li>11. Legalization Madness</li> <li>43. Coming Anarchy</li> </ul>	Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Upside-Down Welfare</li> <li>25. Dismantling the Welfare State</li> <li>38. Can Churches Save America?</li> </ul>
		Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Guns and Dolls</li> <li>7. Children of the Universe</li> <li>10. When Violence Hits Home</li> <li>16. Ending the Battle between the Sexes</li> <li>28. Longest Climb</li> <li>29. Violence against Women</li> </ul>
		Work\ Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Overworked Americans or Overwhelmed Americans?</li> <li>22. Working Harder, Getting Nowhere</li> <li>25. Dismantling the Welfare State</li> <li>33. Reinventing the Corporation</li> <li>34. Revolution in the Workplace</li> <li>41. Alone Together</li> </ul>

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# Culture

- Tribal Cultures and Their Lessons for Us (Articles 1 and 2)
- Forces Shaping Cultures and Lifestyles (Articles 3–5)

The ordinary, everyday objects of living and the daily routines of life provide a structure to social life that is regularly punctuated by festivals, celebrations, and other special events (both happy and sad). Both routine and special times are the “stuff” of culture, for culture is the sum total of all the elements of one’s social inheritance. Culture includes language, tools, values, habits, science, religion, literature, and art.

It is easy to take one’s own culture for granted, so it is useful to pause and reflect on the shared beliefs and practices that form the foundations for our social life. Students share beliefs and practices and thus have a student culture. Obviously, the faculty has one also. Students, faculty, and administrators share a university culture. At the national level, Americans share an American culture. These cultures change over time and especially between generations. As a result, there is much variety among cultures across time and across nations, tribes, and groups. It is fascinating to study these differences and to compare the dominant values and signature patterns of different groups.

The two articles in the first section deal with primitive cultures that are under considerable stress today. David Maybury-Lewis challenges our sense of cultural superiority by demonstrating the wisdom of tribal patterns compared to our modern lifestyles. Tribal societies value people, but modern societies value things. The reader probably will not abandon his or her lifestyle after reading this article, but he or she should have a lot more respect for tribal societies. The report by Colin Turnbull tells how the Ik tribe suffered the loss of their tribal lands and were forced to live in a harsh environment. When a society’s technology is very primitive, its environment has a profound impact on its social structure and culture. We would expect, therefore, that this momentous change in the tribe’s environment would require some interesting adaptations. The change that occurred, however, was shocking. Literally all aspects of life changed for the tribe’s members, in a disturbingly sinister way. Moreover, the experience of this tribe leads Turnbull to question some of the individualistic tendencies of America.

In the next section, Jeff Davidson looks at some major trends in American society and explores their impact on American culture and lifestyles. Longer working hours, population growth, the knowledge explosion, the growth of the media, the steady growth of paper trails, and the overabundance of choices are overwhelming Americans. Their leisure time is reduced, their attention is more fractured, and they feel more overwhelmed. Davidson recommends that the only way to live more fully is to exclude more from one’s life and live more simply.

Gertrude Himmelfarb warns about a more ominous trend, the increase in such negative social indicators as the crime, illegitimacy, and divorce rates. These increases cannot be explained by worsening economic conditions, but rather by two trends. First, much that once was considered as abnormal or illegitimate has become accepted as normal and legitimate. Second, American society has abandoned moral judgments. “Most of us are uncomfortable with the idea of making moral judgments even in our private lives, let alone with the intrusion of moral judgments into public affairs,” Himmelfarb declares.

In the last unit article, Stanley Rothman also analyses the cultural changes taking place in America, but he focuses on the values that are very consequential in the workplace. He notes the decline of bourgeois values of hard work, self-restraint, and ego control, and the rise of values such as expressive individualism. The decline of restraint and of the superego is evidenced in the crime, divorce, and deviancy statistics and does not bode well for the institutions of America.

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## Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

What do you think are the core values in American society?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of cultures that emphasize either cooperation or individualism?

What is the relationship between culture and identity?

What might a visitor from a primitive tribe describe as shocking and barbaric about American society?

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# UNIT 1

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# Tribal wisdom

*Is it too late for us to reclaim the benefits of tribal living?*

David Maybury-Lewis

**T**ribal people hold endless fascination for us moderns. We imagine them as exotics trapped in a lyrical past, or as charming anachronisms embarking on the inevitable course toward modernity. What few of us realize is that tribal peoples have not tried (and failed) to be like us, but have actually chosen to live differently. It is critical that we examine the roads they took that we did not; only then can we get a clear insight into the choices we ourselves make and the price we pay for them—alienation, loneliness, disintegrating families, ecological destruction, spiritual famishment. Only then can we consider the possibility of modifying some of those choices to enrich our lives.

In studying tribal societies, as I have for 30 years, we learn that there is no single “tribal” way of life—I use the word here as a kind of shorthand to refer to small-scale, preindustrial societies that live in comparative isolation and manage their affairs without a central authority such as the state. But however diverse, such societies do share certain characteristics that make them different from “modern” societies. By studying the dramatic contrasts between these two kinds of societies, we see vividly the consequences of modernization and industrialization. Modernization has changed our thinking about every facet of our lives, from family relationships to spirituality to our importance as individuals. Has ours been the road best traveled?

## Strange relations

The heart of the difference between the modern world and the traditional one is that in traditional societies people are a valuable resource and the interrelations between them are carefully tended; in modern society

things are the valuables and people are all too often treated as disposable.

In the modern world we shroud our interdependency in an ideology of independence. We focus on individuals, going it alone in the economic sphere, rather than persons, interconnected in the social sphere. As French anthropologist Marcel Mauss put it, “It is our Western societies that have recently turned man into an economic animal.” What happened?

A truly revolutionary change—a social revolution centering on the rights of the individual—swept Western Europe during the Renaissance and eventually came to dominate and define the modern world. While traditional societies had denounced individualism as anti-social, in Western Europe a belief in the rights and dignity of the individual slowly came to be regarded as the most important aspect of society itself.

The glorification of the individual, this focus on the dignity and rights of the individual, this severing of the obligations to kin and community that support and constrain the individual in traditional societies—all this was the sociological equivalent of splitting the atom. It unleashed the human energy and creativity that enabled people to make extraordinary technical advances and to accumulate undreamed-of wealth.

But we have paid a price for our success. The ever-expanding modern economy is a driven economy, one that survives by creating new needs so that people will consume more. Ideally, under the mechanics of this system, people should have unlimited needs so that the economy can expand forever, and advertising exists to convince them of just that.

The driven economy is accompanied by a restless and driven society. In the United States, for example, the educational system teaches children to be competitive and tries to instill in them the hunger for personal achievement. As adults, the most driven people are rewarded by status. Other human capabilities—for