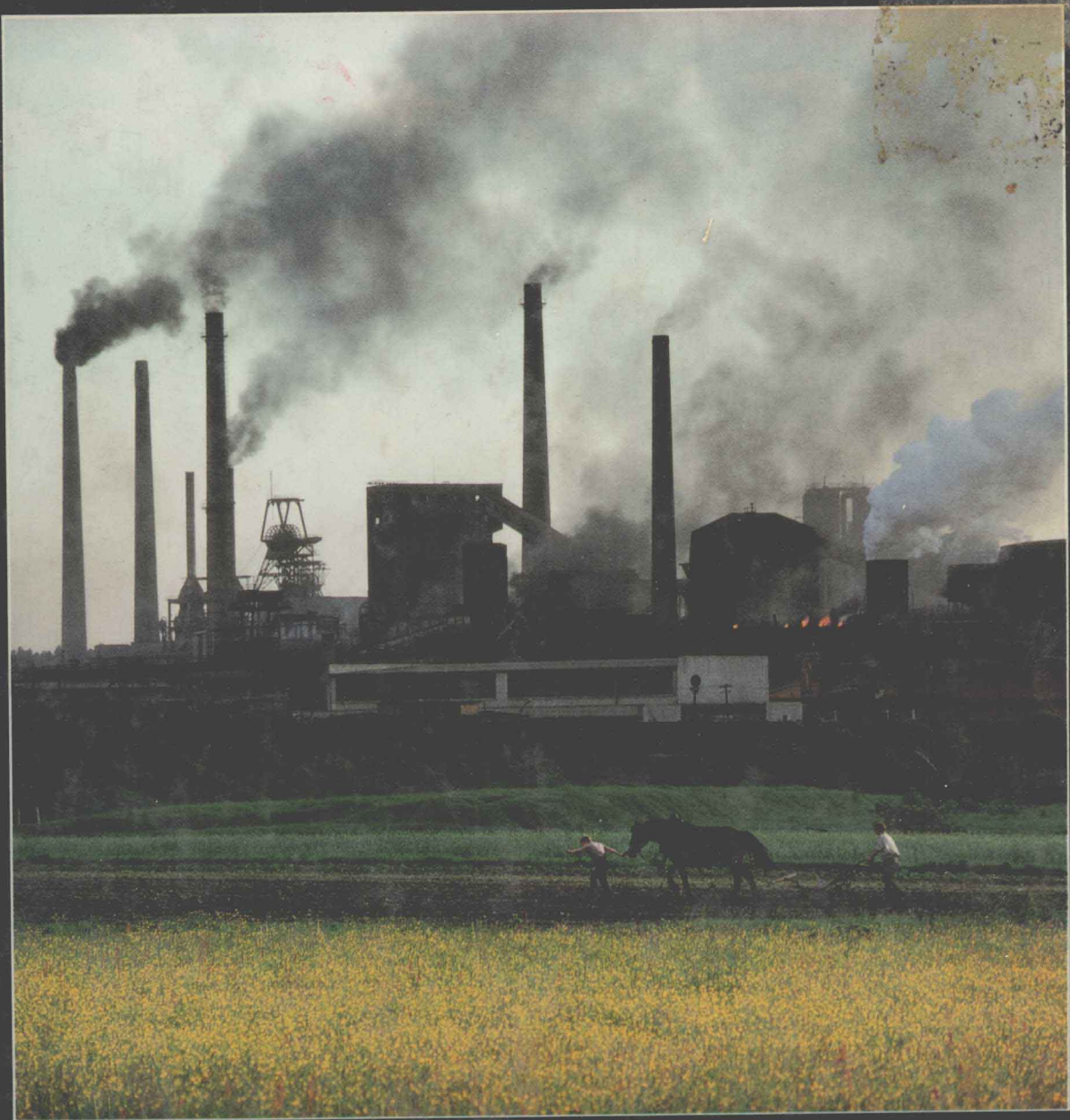


GERHARD LENSKI □ JEAN LENSKI



HUMAN SOCIETIES

AN INTRODUCTION TO MACROSOCIOLOGY
FIFTH EDITION

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HUMAN SOCIETIES

An Introduction to
Macrosociology

Gerhard Lenski
Jean Lenski

McGraw-Hill Book Company

New York St. Louis San Francisco Auckland
Bogotá Hamburg London Madrid
Mexico Milan Montreal New Delhi Panama
Paris São Paulo Singapore Sydney Tokyo Toronto

HUMAN SOCIETIES: AN INTRODUCTION TO MACROSOCIOLOGY

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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 D O C D O C 8 9 4 3 2 1 0 9 8 7

ISBN 0-07-037181-4

This book was set in Optima by Better Graphics, (ECU). The editors were Barbara L. Raab and James R. Belser; the cover was designed by Anne Canevari Green; the production supervisor was Leroy A. Young. New drawings were done by Danmark & Michaels, Inc.

R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company was printer and binder.

Cover photo by James P. Blair © 1972 National Geographic Society.

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Lenski, Gerhard Emmanuel.
Human societies.

Bibliography: p.

Includes indexes.

1. Sociology. 2. Social evolution. 3. Social systems—
History. I. Lenski, Jean. Title.

HM51.L357 1987 301 86-10586

ISBN 0-07-037181-4

HUMAN SOCIETIES

An Introduction to
Macrosociology

For Our Children—And Theirs

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Gerhard Lenski is Alumni Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also author of *The Religious Factor, Power and Privilege*, and numerous articles. He has served as vice president of the American Sociological Association and president and vice president of the Southern Sociological Society. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a former Guggenheim Fellow, IREX Senior Faculty Exchange Fellow, and Senior Faculty Fellow of the Social Science Research Council. Jean Lenski is a writer, poet, and mother of four who collaborated in the writing of *Power and Privilege* and has coauthored the five editions of *Human Societies*.

PREFACE

This volume differs from most other introductory texts in sociology. It is not an institutional survey of contemporary American society, nor is it an attempt to summarize in encyclopedic fashion all the various specialties that have developed in our discipline. Instead, it is a comparative and historical analysis of human societies, the largest, most powerful, and most important social systems humans have created. The basic structure of the analysis is simple enough to be grasped by any student, yet the multilayered nature of the theory that guides the analysis can challenge the best of students.

The theory that provides the organizing framework for this volume is both ecological and evolutionary in nature. In other words, it is concerned with the relations of societies to their environments and with the relations of the parts of these social systems to one another, and it is also concerned with the process of change in societies. The latter is especially important for students who can expect to live well into the twenty-first century.

This volume is the fifth edition of *Human Societies*. As authors, we have been extremely pleased with the reception accorded previous editions by both students and instructors. We have been especially pleased with the opportunity that each new edition has provided for refinements in both the underlying theory and its presentation. We hope that this new edition lives up to the standards of its predecessors.

Changes in the Fifth Edition

No chapter is entirely the same in the present edition as in the last. In some chapters, the changes are largely stylistic and not very important; in others, the changes are substantive and very important. The substantive changes are chiefly in Parts I and III. They are all mentioned in the *Instructor's Manual* (available from the publisher), but the more important of them are noted here as well.

The opening pages of Chapter 1 have been completely rewritten and we hope that this new introduction will orient students effectively to what lies ahead. Some changes have also been made in the discussion of evolution in the section on characteristics that humans share with all other species and in the discussion of our species' common genetic heritage.

Chapter 2 has been reorganized in part, with the discussion of systems moved from the beginning of the chapter to the end (where it more properly belongs). Also, the discussion of institutions and institutional systems has been integrated into the analysis in a more effective way.

Chapter 3 has been completely reorganized in a way that highlights more effectively the distinction between the evolutionary process as it operates in individual societies and as it operates at the level of the world system of societies. A key aspect of the change is our discussion of what we refer to as "the great paradox."

In Chapter 4, we have added two important new sections. The first deals with the relation between societal types and the environment while the second contains a discussion of the nature of societal types (what they are and what they are not).

The most important changes in Part II are both in Chapter 6. The opening pages have been rewritten to bring the explanation of the shift from hunting and gathering to horticulture more closely into line with the evidence from recent research. In addition, we have added an Excursus at the end of Chapter 6. This offers a critical look at racist theory from an ecological and evolutionary perspective. In Chapter 7, we have added a brief diversion in our boxed insert entitled "Mother Goose Revisited." We hope that this will help students to discover something new and unsuspected in something old and familiar.

Chapter 9 has been partly reorganized and the discussion of the causes of the continuing Industrial Revolution has been largely rewritten. Chapter 10 has been substantially rewritten. The material on the new secular ideologies is especially important and instructors who have used previous editions of this book are urged to take special note of the changes here.

Chapter 11 has also been substantially rewritten. A number of the changes in this chapter provide a follow-up to the new materials on ideology introduced in Chapter 10. In the section on stratification, there is greater attention now to power and the control of the economic surplus, including a comparison of the western industrial democracies with the Marxist-Leninist societies of Eastern Europe. There is also more attention given to the distribution of income and wealth in industrial societies in this new edition.

There are two important changes in Chapter 12. The material on the mass media has been completely rewritten, and a new unit has been added at the end of the chapter appraising the relevance for sociological theory of the tremendously impor-

tant social experiments conducted in Eastern Europe in recent decades by Marxist-Leninist elites.

All of the materials in Part III have been updated wherever possible. The updating involves not merely the use of newer statistical materials, but more importantly the incorporation into the analysis of new developments of many kinds. For example, in Chapter 13 we take note of the new pragmatism in China and discuss its implications for other Third World societies.

We hope that all the many changes prove to be improvements, and we eagerly await the reactions and judgments of instructors who have worked with previous editions and can compare the present edition with them. As we have said before, we welcome all reactions, suggestions, and criticisms from students and instructors alike. We have benefited greatly from them in the past and will, we feel sure, continue to benefit from them.

We remind those of you who have used previous editions of *Human Societies* that an instructor's manual is available for the asking from the McGraw-Hill Book Company. This manual has been revised with each new edition of the text. We especially encourage those who are using the book for the first time to obtain a copy, since it provides numerous suggestions for class discussions, projects, films, and exams.

Acknowledgments

It is not possible to acknowledge adequately all our many intellectual debts in the brief space available here. But many who read this volume will recognize our debt to Thomas Malthus, Charles Darwin, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Thorstein Veblen, Albert Keller, William Ogburn, V. Gordon Childe, George Peter Murdock, R. H. Tawney, Sir Julian Huxley, George Gaylord Simpson, Leslie White, Julian Steward, Amos Hawley, Marvin Harris, and William H. McNeill, among others. The citations that appear at the end of this volume should be regarded as further acknowledgments of indebtedness and appreciation.

Many social scientists and a few biologists have been kind enough to provide critical comments on, and suggestions for, one or more of the five editions of *Human Societies* thus far. The social scientists include Francis R. Allen, E. Jackson Baur, Rae Lesser Blumberg, William R. Catton, Jr., Ronald Cospers, David Featherman, George Furniss, Walter Goldschmidt, Robert Bates Graber, Gareth Gustafson, Thomas D. Hall, Amos Hawley, Paul Heckert, Joan Huber, Donald Irish, Charles K. Warriner, Norbert Wiley, Philip Marcus, Patrick D. Nolan, Ross Purdy, Leo Rigsby, Norman Storer, and Everett K. Wilson. The biologists include Alfred E. Emerson, Richard E. Lenski, and Edward O. Wilson. We extend sincere thanks to each of them for valuable suggestions, but remind readers that the final responsibility for the contents is ours alone.

**Gerhard Lenski
Jean Lenski**

HUMAN SOCIETIES

An Introduction to
Macrosociology

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Inside Front Cover: Map of Preindustrial Societies Mentioned in Text

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PART I

Theoretical Foundations

CHAPTER 1

Starting Points

One of the most important developments in recent centuries has been the rise of modern science. Its aim is to understand the world in which we live. As scientific knowledge has increased, scientific activity has become more specialized. Each branch of science has its own special subject matter and its own special set of problems. *Sociology is the branch of science concerned with the study of human societies.*

In this volume, our analysis of human societies will be (1) *historical*, (2) *comparative*, and (3) *macroorganizational*. It will be historical because a temporal perspective is essential if we are to understand the processes of change and development that have been—and continue to be—so important. Moreover, we must never forget that most of the intellectual and organizational resources on which societies today depend are products of the efforts of previous generations, and even those that are our own creations have all been developed on foundations laid by earlier generations. As René Dubos, a distinguished biologist, wisely observed, “The past is not dead history; it is living material out of which man makes himself and builds [his] future.”¹

① Our study of human societies will also be comparative, because *comparison is the basis of all scientific knowledge*. A scientific understanding of anything depends on comparisons of it with other things. To understand a pine tree, we have to compare it with other kinds of trees, and then compare trees with other kinds of plants, and plants with other forms of life, noting the similarities and differences