



Sociology: Introductory Readings

By Anthony Giddens

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The third edition of this best-selling introductory reader in sociology has been thoroughly restructured, and fully revised and updated to offer a stimulating and wide-ranging set of readings for students approaching sociology for the first time. A strong emphasis has been placed on creating a productive mixture of classic and contemporary readings which is highly readable and lively, yet remains challenging. Whilst particularly useful as a companion to the sixth edition of Giddens's Sociology, the reader is designed for use independently or alongside other textbooks. The reader maintains the distinctive approach which Sociology pioneered: strongly comparative and historically informed, it stresses the influence of globalizing trends in social life. The carefully selected readings range from studies of face-to-face interaction through to the analysis of large-scale global systems, and cover sociological theories of society as well as research methods. Amongst the new selections in this volume are readings on the Internet and virtual communities, the impact of ecological thinking and climate change on social science, offshoring and the future of work, global cities, patriarchy and shifting gender relations, intersecting social inequalities, the idea and practice of restorative justice, new forms of cybercrime, war, terrorism and the prospects for a global cosmopolitan democracy. The readings are arranged in ten thematic sections and each section is preceded by a summary in order to facilitate students' comprehension and critical reflection. The result is an exciting new text that encompasses the major themes and debates in both classical and contemporary sociology. Sociology: Introductory Readings will be an essential resource for anyone who wishes to engage with the scope of sociological thought today.

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Editorial Review

Review

"It is difficult to imagine social-scientific thought and practice in Britain and much of Continental Europe without the distinctive contribution of Anthony Giddens. His prolific work has the unique merit of tying together the rich tradition of modern social thought with the challenges of whatever is new and unprecedented in what he has called the 'late modern' or 'post-traditional' world." *Times Literary Supplement*

From the Back Cover

This is a thoroughly revised and updated edition of the best-selling introductory reader in sociology. The book offers a comprehensive, yet challenging set of readings for students approaching the study of sociology for the first time. A strong emphasis has been placed upon readability and liveliness. The volume includes contributions from newspapers and weekly periodicals, as well as from academic journals. It is designed as a companion to Giddens's *Sociology*, but can also be used independently, or alongside other textbooks.

The book maintains the distinctive approach which *Sociology* pioneered. It is strongly comparative in emphasis and stresses the influence of globalizing trends in social life. In addition, it includes a diverse range of material relevant to the institutions of British society. The readings range from studies of face-to-face interaction through to the analysis of large-scale global systems.

There are many new sections in this collection, including those on the sociology of the body, media and popular culture, and the sociology of education. The readings are broken up into different sections and each section is preceded by a summary of the materials, in order to maximize ease of comprehension on the part of students. The result is a text that is both exceptionally accessible yet also easy to follow. *Sociology: Introductory Readings* will be an essential resource for anyone who wishes to acquire a basic understanding of the scope of sociological thought today.

About the Author

Anthony Giddens is former director of the London School of Economics and Political Science. Philip W. Sutton is formerly of the University of Leeds and Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

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