Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West

A Source Book

Prepared by The Contemporary Civilization Staff of Columbia College, Columbia University

Volume I • Third Edition

Columbia University Press

New York
The purpose approach to institutions as events or moving parts participated in both a pattern of possible apart past and must pate intelligently chosen because readings embark.

There has been a thought of an or unified way of understanding important arguments presented in source book, or deciding what to keep to the material. Theses rather to help introduced in the social sciences the Source Book as a textbook as one of the major selections were embodying to the organizers, embodying readings were
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The purpose of these volumes of readings is to enable the student to approach the making of contemporary civilization through the ideas and institutions which helped make it. An important aspect of any historical event or movement is the interpretation and justification of it by those who participated in it. Reflection by the student upon society and history supplies both a pattern and a perspective for intelligent control. Such reflection is impossible apart from the traditions of human thinking. A civilized person has a past and must be conscious of his own roots and growth in order to participate intelligently in his society. Each of the readings that follow has been chosen because it is a genuine source of contemporary civilization. These readings embody not historical curiosities but ideas that have persisted.

There has been little attempt to make the selections present the entire thought of an individual, or to present literary masterpieces as works of art or unified wholes. In view of the primary aim to develop the student's critical understanding of his society, the selections for the most part present specific, important arguments. Many great names and documents do not appear. A source book, of any kind, must discriminate in the light of its purpose. In deciding what to use, and what to exclude, the editors have tried constantly to keep to the forefront the limitations of time and the teachability of the material. These readings are not designed to polish off an education, but rather to help the student lay the groundwork for his more advanced courses in the social sciences. It is important to emphasize that, in Columbia College, the Source Book is used in conjunction with a guiding Manual and appropriate textbook assignments, which help to supply the necessary historical context and continuity.

Although the course in Contemporary Civilization has been required of all freshmen in Columbia College for more than twenty-five years, the present degree of emphasis on the reading of original source materials was first introduced, on a trial basis, in the spring of 1941. Results were so encouraging that the readings soon came to be regarded, by staff and students alike, as one of the most valuable features of the course. To facilitate revision, the selections were at first published in twenty-four separate fascicles, corresponding to the organizational division of the subject matter. Supplementary fascicles, embodying the first fruits of practice, appeared in 1943. These earlier readings were in large part prepared by Charles Frankel. Collaborators on

The present edition constitutes a major revision of the content and organization of the readings, based upon five years of classroom experience. Every part of the work has undergone thorough re-editing. Many of the selections previously used have been omitted, while those retained have been carefully re-examined. Abbreviations have been made where it seemed advisable, and better translations used where possible. A large number of new selections have been added after consideration of the needs which have emerged in this type of course, including much valuable material not elsewhere available in English.

Because the advantages of the separate fascicles have largely disappeared with the success and solidification of the source-readings enterprise, the present edition is offered in two bound volumes. In this more substantial and attractive form, it is hoped that students will find the Source Book a work of useful reference in their later college studies and that it will become a welcome addition to their permanent libraries. While the Source Book has been constructed with the requirements of the Columbia College course primarily in view, the Committee is aware that the material can be abbreviated or in other ways adapted to the needs of various types of courses in other colleges and universities.

The emphasis in these volumes has been deliberately placed on the specifically European institutions and ideas which have helped to shape the character of contemporary civilization. The impress of these institutions and ideas on the United States and its place in international affairs, together with the distinctively American contribution to contemporary civilization, are studied in the second year of the course, and analogous source-readings are designed to accompany this part of the work.

For permission to reprint material from their publications, thanks and acknowledgments are hereby extended to the publishers mentioned in the selections that follow.

The Committee whose work this edition of the Source Book represents consisted of the undersigned and, for a shorter period, John R. Everett.

Justice Buchler, Chairman
Paul Beik
Eugene O. Golob
K. William Kapp

Columbia University
January, 1946

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Mr, Chairman

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE PRESENT REVISION of the 1946 edition of the Source Book is not a
radical one so far as method and principles are concerned. But both
volumes have been intensively re-examined, and many modifications
have been made in the light of six more years of practical classroom experi-
ence. Most of the changes are designed to further existing aims of the first-
year course in Contemporary Civilization at Columbia College and, more
generally, the several additional functions which the book is known to serve
elsewhere. The Contemporary Civilization staff does not pretend to have
"solved" the problems of general education (indeed, the very notion would be
self-contradicting); but it has been gratified to find how effectively the bulk
of the 1946 material was serving the purposes of the Columbia and many other
programs.

Though the two volumes of the Source Book independently meet a number
of needs, they can be used to particular advantage in connection with the
new two-volume edition of Chapters in Western Civilization. Each of the
"Chapters" now corresponds to a subdivision of the Source Book, supplying
a background for the topic in question. "Chapters" and "Sources" are thus
mutually illuminating.

The structure of the Source Book (both volumes) has been partially al-
tered; certain chapter headings have been re-formulated; extensive and im-
portant new material has been specially translated for this edition; many of
the introductions to the readings have been revised; and foreign phrases occur-
ing in the readings have been translated. These changes—along with the
specific changes enumerated below for Volume One—have been made in the
interests of scholarship, clarity, and classroom effectiveness. In Volume One:

1. New source-readings have been introduced,
   (a) from authors and documents hitherto unrepresented: Las Siete Par-
tidas, Goliard Poets, Plato, Plotinus, Camoens, Sepúlveda and Las
Casas (The New World), Boccaccio, The Thirty-nine Articles, Bos-
suet, Diderot, Helvétius.
   (b) from (and sometimes replacing the previous material of) authors
or movements already represented: various medieval documents,
Fugger (News-Letter), Hus, Galileo, Kant, Cahier.

2. Certain existing source-readings have been amplified, contracted, or re-
ed for one reason or another—e.g., greater fullness, greater conciseness, better continuity, the insertion of significant passages: Machiavelli, Pico della Mirandola, Veronese Inquisition, More, Calvin, Newton, Hobbes, Harrington, Locke, Condorcet, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Young.

3. One author represented by a selection that did not prove useful in the classroom has been omitted: Mandeville.

The Committee is indebted to Benjamin N. Nelson for fertile suggestions and extraordinary scholarly aid. Harold Barger has contributed various editorial services unstintingly. To Eleanor W. Blau, Nora Louise Magid, Lewis Morris, and Samuel L. Sochis the Committee is grateful for assistance in preparing the manuscript, and to Susan H. Bowen, Anita S. Gelber, and Merton L. Reichler for their contribution to the task of reading proof. To the publishers acknowledged in the individual selections thanks are extended for their permission to reprint copyrighted material.

In connection specifically with Volume One of the Source Book, Harold D. Hantz and Robert C. Stover were of great assistance in solving certain editorial problems. New translations have been contributed by Arthur C. Danto and Gregory L. Rabassa, as well as by members of the Committee. New introductions have been written and old ones revised by Louis Cohnhaft, Arthur C. Danto, Irwin Edman, Paul O. Kristeller, Fritz R. Stern, Horace S. Thayer, Robert K. Webb, and members of the Committee.

The Committee wishes to record the invaluable chairmanship of one of its members, George T. Matthews, up to the end of 1952. John Kotselas of Columbia University Press has displayed unfailing patience, cooperation, and efficiency in supervising the process of publication. Dean Lawrence H. Chamberlain of Columbia College, a long-time participant in the Contemporary Civilization Program, has contributed generously toward the solution of many problems facing the Committee. It would be impossible to exaggerate the extent to which the Committee relied upon the experience, judgment, and high editorial discrimination of Justus Buchler, Chairman of the Program. Whatever range, perspective, and insight the Source Book has come to exhibit can be in large measure attributed to his inspiration as scholar and teacher.

Editorial Committee
Joseph L. Blau
Ralph H. Bowen
Peter J. Gay
Sidney Gelber
George T. Matthews
Richard M. Morse, Chairman
Stephen W. Rousseas

Columbia University
May, 1954
PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The third revision of this Source Book appears during the fortieth year of the Contemporary Civilization course at Columbia College. Although it is more extensively revised than the second edition, the traditions of the course at Columbia and the expectations of the many schools using the book have by now established a nearly inviolable format. The changes, then, in few significant ways alter the basic purposes and outlines of the previous editions.

Nearly every introduction has been shortened and revised so as to provide merely background information and to leave more to the student in analyzing the documents. There also has been some rearrangement of the sections and of documents within sections. In line with the forthcoming complete revision of the two volumes of Chapters in Western Civilization, the background essays used in conjunction with the Source Book at Columbia College, a number of section titles have been revised.

The new readings from documents and authors previously unrepresented include:


The following writers or topics have been re-edited to include additional material or to provide a shorter or fresher selection of ideas:


Considerations of space in this volume and of usefulness in our course have made it necessary to drop these readings:

de la Rivière. The selections on the French Revolution will now be found in the third edition of Volume Two.

In completing this revision the editorial Committee has been put heavily in debt to certain individuals. Patricia Moyer, now at the University of Nottingham, England, as a Marshall Fellow, did extensive general editorial work as did Raymond Lubitz, currently a Kellett Fellow at Oriel College, Oxford. Professor Robert Benson, now at Wesleyan University, was a member of the editorial committee for one year. His suggestions at committee meetings helped especially in revising the documents on the Middle Ages.

Professor John A. Hutchison of the Department of Religion of Columbia University gave us much of his time and advice on various theologians. Dr. Stephen J. Gendzier of the French Department at Columbia supplied us with translations from Diderot and Condorcet. The taxing job of typing the extracts was shared cheerfully among Carol Kooi, Leni Kroul, Lalitha Nayagam, Jane Slater, and Joseph Plut.

A number of Columbia College students gave many hours to help complete this volume in its last stages. Thanks go especially to Barry S. Augenbraun, Bruce H. Bank, William R. Bishin, Alan H. Feld, Nathan Gross, and Stephen C. Lerner.

The Bible text in this publication is from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted 1946 and 1952 by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches and used by permission.

A special word of thanks is due Elinor Stoneman, whose knowledge and taste as senior editorial secretary were invaluable. Were it not for her diligence during many months of hard work it would have been impossible to meet our deadline and match the standards set for us by our predecessors on the editorial committee.

The cooperation and interest of John G. Palfrey, Dean of Columbia College, have immeasurably helped the committee overcome problems of staff and finances. It is hoped that this volume will reflect well on his constant efforts to aid us.

Editorial Committee
Marvin Harris
Sidney Morgenbesser
Joseph Rothschild
Bernard Wishy, Chairman

Columbia University
June, 1960
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