MAN IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

A SOURCE BOOK PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION STAFF OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

New Student Edition

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS
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PREFACE

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PREFACE TO NEW STUDENT EDITION

THE rapidly changing nature of the modern world necessitates continual revision of the content of "source material" such as that originally published in *Man in Contemporary Society*. In response to a dual need to update the source material and to produce a more compact and shortened version of the extensive two-volume edition, the Contemporary Civilization Editorial Committee of Columbia College appointed me as a temporary member to serve, under their advice and approval, as editor of this revised one-volume edition of *Man in Contemporary Society*. Approximately one third of the material in this edition is new. The editor and the committee have been guided by the same purpose and criteria of selection, applied to the new material and the retained readings, that underlay the preparation of the original two volumes. Although there has been no intention of covering fully any of the topics under which the readings are organized, we have tried, within the confines of one volume, to retain the most suggestive and pertinent selections from the previous edition as well as to introduce new ideas, topics and perspectives by the inclusion of much new material.

The introductions to the John Maynard Keynes and Joan Robinson selections were written by David Novack. Elfie Karner Stock prepared the introduction to the Ernest Nagel reading, and Immanuel Wallerstein wrote his own introduction. The introductions to the remainder of the new material were prepared by the editor.

The editor and the editorial committee have worked in close cooperation during the preparation of this volume. The editor wishes to give special thanks to David Sidorsky and Bernard Wishy whose scholarship and interest contributed greatly to its final form.

*William R. Taber*

*Columbia University*

*June, 1962*
PREFACE TO TWO-VOLUME EDITION

CONTEMPORARY Western society, despite its unique instruments of communication, despite its enormous self-concern and its passion for the disclosure of fact, is peculiarly elusive subject matter. The age of opinion polls, interviews, and forums, of endless autobiographies, confessions, digests, and investigations, ironically resists understanding and compels us to dig deeply with complex tools. Largely upon the academic community (the community supposed by popular myth to be concealed from the real world) falls the responsibility of finding or devising the best of the answers and the best of the perspectives, however incomplete they may prove to be. These two volumes of readings on Man in Contemporary Society make no pretense of definitive social diagnosis; still less are they concerned with prognosis. They are concerned mainly to accumulate and organize pronouncements that are truly relevant to the understanding of the present.

The "present," when closely scrutinized, inevitably expands into the present not only of this year but of this decade, this generation, and this century. Among the writings here invoked for their bearing on the present, one originated as recently as 1954, another as far back as 1861. Each in its own way helps to illuminate the contemporary world. Just what writings, and how many, and of what kind, are included in any collection depends upon the purpose for which the collection is intended, upon space, time, and fallible judgment. The present body of readings has been prepared with the needs of the second (sophomore) year of the two-year Columbia College Contemporary Civilization sequence primarily in view. Like the previously published Introduction to Contemporary Civilization in the West and Chapters in Western Civilization, used in the first year's work, these "source books" provide the reading matter of an established course of study. The materials included in them were brought together during some five years of experimentation, during which time they were issued, for use by Columbia College students exclusively, in less permanent, unbound form. While the decision to publish them in a printed edition at this time was made with the requirements of Contemporary Civilization primarily in mind, in part that decision rested upon the conviction that the materials might also be found useful in other institutions, in other courses. The Editorial Committee has sought to assemble readings exhibiting great diversity and yet at the same time a high degree of interrelatedness and thematic continuity, materials which in collective...
PREFACE

scope might satisfy the needs of different users. All such users will have work to do. For most of the selections do not lend themselves to simple assimilation. They require of the reader or discussant a critical responsiveness, and a willingness to encounter unsuspected problems no less than an inclination to resolve problems already discerned. These volumes aim, as far as possible, to provide full, sustained arguments and formulations, rather than briefly stated, epigrammatic, or summed-up ideas.

The contours and forces of society are of course delineated not only by its professional students, the social scientists, but by all those whose products are concerned with the motives, purposes, relations, and ideals of men. Accordingly the Editorial Committee, reflecting the Contemporary Civilization tradition, has not overly troubled itself with the question whether each and every reading embodies work in the "social sciences" or "social studies." The products of philosophers, artists, theologians, and natural scientists can hardly be neglected; nor, in some instances, can we find testimony superior to that of practical men of politics. Who, in any event, is to say what are the precise boundaries of the "social studies?" For the most part, contemporary society yields its traits not to a frontal assault, not to a repertorial technique, but to the subtler constructions of imagination and analysis, when both are grounded in the sense of fact. The student, on his side, stands to gain as much from writers whose methods or conclusions he resists as from those with whom he is predisposed to agree. In the preparation of contemporary "source" materials, it is not always possible and not always desirable to choose the best-known or most obvious expression of a given viewpoint, or to choose those viewpoints which happen to be in wide current favor. The staff and its Editorial Committee have primarily had the student's needs in mind, and have often made suggestiveness and challenge the principal criteria for the choice of a reading.

The educational practice of Columbia College for the past thirty-five years, and now possibly more than ever, has emphasized the importance of historical awareness in the student. It is therefore no accident that a study of the most essential, persistent social factors relating to contemporary man is preceded at Columbia by an intensive consideration of the broad post-medieval context in which his society is embedded. But the first-year study of the Contemporary Civilization Program, although primarily historical in approach, is pervaded by analytical discussion; and the second-year study, although primarily analytical in approach, attempts to preserve historical perspective.

The Contemporary Civilization staff has no desire to urge—for it does not believe—that its own way of using these readings is best for all educational institutions. It has (1) included in each of the two volumes far more material than can profitably and (2) organized independently of different combinations of its own tradition as universally applicable of any technique as possible.

The collection, over one hundred by authors. In most cases the selection for us of passages not di slight insertions n and to render it as been indicated by printed enclosed except where such a same time all passa, to English, appearing. Throughout its responsibility to adhere with his language to the cooperation abroad, toward the together with bibliography; key each footnoted app.

The accumulation in these volumes—been a truly cooperative process has been the temporary Civilization: personal contributor selections represent Kurt Shell translates Michels and the selec C. De Morelos tran Peruvian Reality” b Ethic and the Spirit translation by Peter
The collection, divided about equally between the two volumes, comprises over one hundred separate items, selected from a wide range of contemporary authors. In most cases some measure of editing has been necessary to prepare the selection for use in the classroom. Such editing has involved (1) omission of passages not directly pertinent to the teaching needs of the course; (2) slight insertions necessary to insure continuity within the abridged piece and to render it as self-contained as possible. In all instances deletions have been indicated by suspension points in the text, while insertions have been printed enclosed in brackets. References and notes have been omitted except where such apparatus is manifestly needed to clarify the text. At the same time all passages in foreign languages, save those thoroughly assimilated to English, appearing in the texts have been translated in bracketed footnotes. Throughout its work, the Editorial Committee has been conscious of its responsibility to adhere scrupulously to the author's meaning and to tamper with his language to the least degree possible. It is appropriate here to acknowledge the cooperation of numerous publishing houses, in this country and abroad, toward the use of copyright material. Such acknowledgment, together with bibliographical data, is formally made for each selection in an unkeyed footnote appearing at the bottom of the first page of each selection.

The accumulation, organization, and preparation of the materials contained in these volumes—and of the course whose needs they directly serve—has been a truly cooperative enterprise. The indispensable condition of that enterprise has been the learned resources and critical enthusiasm of the entire Contemporary Civilization teaching staff. Many individuals have made invaluable personal contributions. Attention should be called to the fact that three of the selections represent translations of writings hitherto unavailable in English: Kurt Shell translated "The Origins of Anti-Capitalistic Mass Spirit" by Robert Michels and the selection from "Beyond Capitalism" by Paul Sering; Leonardo C. de Morelos translated the selection from "Seven Essays Interpreting the Peruvian Reality" by José C. Mariátegui. The selection from "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" by Max Weber which appears here is a fresh translation by Peter J. Gay. George L. Kline thoroughly revised and corrected
the existing translations of “Terrorism and Communism” by Karl Kautsky and “Dictatorship vs. Democracy” by Leon Trotsky. The introductions to the selections have been written by: Harold Barger, Justus Buchler, Robert Cumming, Emanuel Chill, Robert L. Carey, Herbert A. Deane, Leonard Feldstein, Martin Fleisher, Morton Fried, Julian H. Franklin, Peter J. Gay, Marvin Harris, Sidney Klein, George L. Kline, Harold Larrabee, Harvey Levin, C. Wright Mills, Donald O’Connell, Kurt Shell, James Shenton, Fritz Stern, Jacob Weissman, Bernard Wishy, and by members of the Editorial Committee. Mrs. Eleanor W. Blau has served long, faithfully, and with great efficiency as the secretary to the Editorial Committee. Raymond J. Dixon of Columbia University Press has assisted the Editorial Committee with his expert advice, has solved many editorial problems, and has supervised the production of the volumes. Miss Mary Morris, in her capacity as Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Columbia College, has facilitated the work of the Editorial Committee in innumerable important ways.

The Editorial Committee, on behalf of the teaching staff, wishes publicly, if inadequately, to recognize the debt it owes to the scholarship, pedagogical skill, and academic leadership of Justus Buchler, Chairman of the Contemporary Civilization Program. It wishes also to thank Robert L. Carey, who, while serving as Temporary Chairman of the Contemporary Civilization Program during the academic year 1953-1954, did much to assist the Committee in its deliberations and labors.

Finally the teaching staff and the Editorial Committee wish to express gratitude to Lawrence H. Chamberlain, Dean of Columbia College, who, more than any single individual, has made it possible for this publication to be brought to its present conclusion.

The undersigned are the current members of the Editorial Committee. Past members have been: John W. Alexander, Harold Barger, Charles Frankel, Julian H. Franklin, Peter J. Gay, Henry F. Graff, C. Lowell Harriss, Richard Hofstadter, Walter Metzger, Elman Service, and Stephen W. Rousseas.

**Editorial Committee**

- Joseph L. Blau
- Ralph H. Bowen
- Arthur C. Danto
- Sidney Gelber
- George T. Matthews, Chairman
- Richard M. Morse

*Columbia University*

*February, 1955*
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