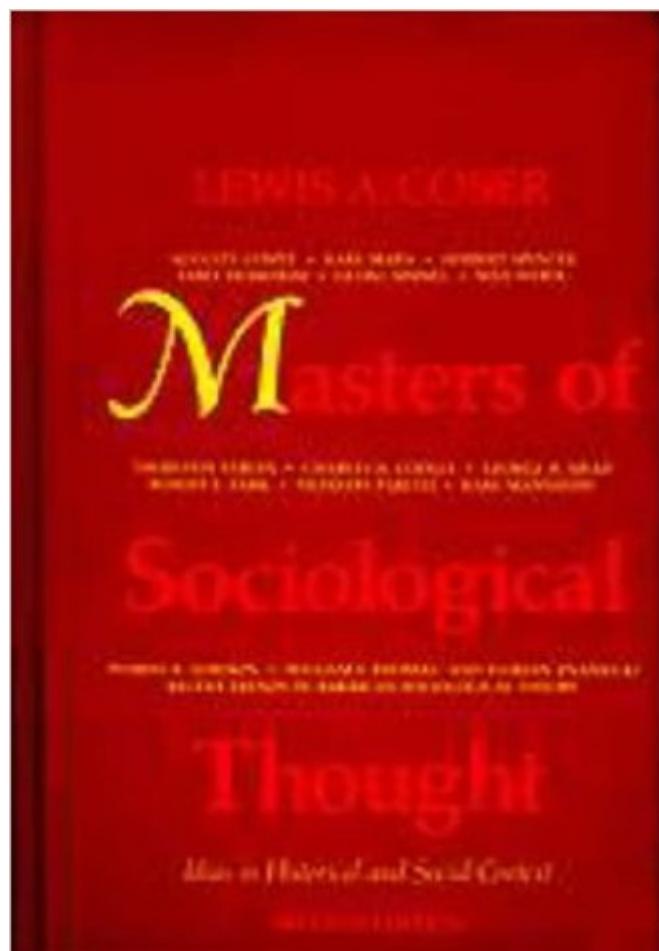


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Masters Of Sociological Thought: Ideas In Historical And Social Context



Synopsis

A history of sociological theory presented through a study of major theorists from the early 20th century to the present. Contains separate chapters on Comte, Marx, Spencer, Durkheim, Simmel, Weber, Veblen, Cooley, Mead, Park, Parento, Mannheim, and Sorokin, a chapter on William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki, and a concluding chapter on major American figures of recent decades.

Book Information

Hardcover: 611 pages

Publisher: Harcourt; 2 edition (April 1977)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0155551302

ISBN-13: 978-0155551305

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 6.6 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #601,505 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Social Theory #3326 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Sociology #39563 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences

Customer Reviews

This book discusses 14 Masters of Sociological Theory: Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Georg Simmel, Max Weber, Thorstein Veblen, Charles Horton Cooley, Robert Ezra Park, Vilfredo Pareto, Karl Mannheim, Pitirim A. Sorokin, William I. Thomas, and Florian Znaniecki. It ends with a brief discussion of recent American Sociological Theory. The main thesis of this book is clearly stated in a quote by Goethe preceding the forward, "Was Du Erebtest von Deinen Vätern hast, erwirb es, um es zu besitzen" or "What you have inherited from your fathers, you must earn in order to possess" (Coser, 1977). Coser attempts to portray sociology from its conception to its adulthood through a chronological discovery of its primary participants and their respective theories. There are two aspects of this review, the first focuses on the structure of the book and the second focuses on the content. The structure of book utilizes a separate chapter for individual masters with the exception of Thomas and Znaniecki who share one. Each chapter begins with an overview of the each master's work that explains in summary style the main ideas or contributions that each contributed to the discipline. The second section of each chapter offers a

brief biography of each master as well discusses any trials and tribulations he may have experienced growing up. The biography provides background into the master's childhood, including family members, friends, and co-workers. That is followed by an intellectual context section that describes the historical time period of the master and where he fits into the period philosophically. It relates the master's work to others in the period, which demonstrates the importance of peer review [not clear why] that has become so important in today's social sciences.

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