

Main Currents In Sociological Thought Durkheim

Main Currents in Sociological Thought: Volume 2
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A Short History of Sociological Thought
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Reason and Freedom in
Sociological Thought (RLE Social Theory)
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Main Currents in Sociological Thought:
Montesquieu, Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Alexis de Tocqueville, the sociologists and the Revolution of 1848
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this is the second of raymond aron's classic two volume survey of the sociological tradition arguably the definitive work of its kind aron explores the work of three figures who profoundly shaped sociology as it entered the twentieth century Émile durkheim who continued auguste comte's quest for a science of society and a scientific validation of morality vilfredo pareto the italian neo machiavellian who emphasized the oligarchic or elitist character of all societies and the german sociologist max weber who reflected critically on the prospects for human freedom in an age marked by bureaucratization and rationalization aron presents rich portraits of these three thinkers drawing out the enduring insights that remain in their work at the same time he reflects critically on durkheim's project for a science of society pareto's critique of humanitarianism and weber's tragic pessimism above all the book is remarkable for demonstrating aron's lifelong indebtedness to and divergence from the thought of max weber the sociologist par excellence in aron's view this routledge classics edition includes an introduction by daniel j mahoney and brian c anderson

in this second volume of main currents of sociological thought raymond aron continues the analysis begun in the first volume of the great doctrines of historical sociology aron explores the work of three figures who profoundly shaped sociology as it entered the twentieth century emile durkheim the great french theorist of consensus who continued auguste comte's quest for a science of society and a scientific validation of morality vilfredo pareto the italian neo machiavellian who mocked traditional morality and humanitarian pretensions and emphasized the oligarchic or elitist character of all societies and the german sociologist max weber who reflected continuously on the relationship between science and action filled with deep foreboding about the prospects for human freedom in an age marked by bureaucratization and rationalization aron presents rich portraits of these three thinkers drawing from them what remains of enduring worth even as he distances himself from durkheim's project for a science of society pareto's exaggerated critique of humanitarianism and weber's tragic pessimism aron's book is essential for clarifying his profound indebtedness to and crucial divergences from the thought of max weber the

sociologist par excellence in aron's view together with volume 1 which treats the work of montesquieu comte marx and tocqueville it forms the definitive survey of the great social thinkers to date yet as daniel j mahoney and brian c anderson explain in their introduction main currents is more than a survey it is above all a challenge to contemporary social science to retain the ambition of an older philosophically informed sociology to present an interpretation of modern society and to reflect on the meaning of universal history

this is the first of raymond aron's magisterial two volume treatment of the sociological tradition perhaps the definitive work of its kind the second volume treating durkheim pareto and weber is scheduled to appear in spring 1998 more than a work of reconstruction aron's study is at its deepest level an engagement with the question of modernity what constitutes the essence of the new modern order that having emerged in the eighteenth century still forms the categories of our experience sweeping us along toward an unknown destination with his usual scrupulous fairness aron looks to the major social thinkers to discern how they answered this pressing question volume 1 explores three traditions the french liberal school of political sociology represented by montesquieu and tocqueville the comtean tradition anticipating durkheim in its deemphasis of the political and its elevation of social unity and consensus and the marxists who posited the struggle between classes and placed their faith in historical necessity a foreword by the eminent french philosopher pierre manent highlights main currents as a unique contribution to political philosophy as well as the history of sociological thought while daniel j mahoney and brian c anderson provide an introduction situating main currents within the corpus of aron's work as a whole this work is essential reading for philosophers historians sociologists and political scientists

this is the first part of raymond aron's landmark two volume study of the sociological tradition arguably the definitive work of its kind more than a work of reconstruction aron's study is at its deepest level an engagement with the very question of modernity how did the intellectual currents which emerged in the eighteenth century shape the modern political and philosophical order with scrupulous fairness aron examines the thoughts and arguments of the major social thinkers to discern how they answered this question volume one explores three traditions the french liberal school of political sociology represented by

montesquieu and tocqueville the comtean tradition anticipating durkheim in its elevation of social unity and consensus and the marxists who posited the struggle between classes and placed their faith in historical necessity in his customary clear and penetrating prose aron argues that each of these schools offers its own theory of the diversity of societies and that each is inspired both by moral convictions and by scientific hypotheses this routledge classics edition includes an introduction by daniel j mahoney and brian c anderson

the second volume of the landmark study examining the work of sociology s defining thinkers from the turn of the nineteenth century to the interwar period main currents in sociological thought remains a foundational synthesis in the field in this second and final volume of his classic survey raymond aron explores the work of three figures who profoundly shaped sociology as it entered the twentieth century durkheim who continued comte s quest for a science of society and a scientific validation of morality pareto the italian neo machiavellian who emphasized the elitist character of all societies and weber the german sociologist who reflected critically on the prospects for human freedom in an age of disenchantment bringing together penetrating intellectual portraits of these great thinkers and close readings of their most consequential texts main currents in sociological thought highlights the historical and intellectual context within which each man wrote and draws out their works enduring insights and influence in the field today

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how has reason believed since the enlightenment to be the ally of freedom in the search for a better more humanly satisfying world been reduced to a technical rationality that has actually impoverished the bases of human freedom what might be the options and obligations for sociologists who wish to restore reason to its proper status working within the tradition of c wright mills and jurgen habermas frank hearn sets out to answer these questions he surveys the treatment of the relation between reason and freedom in both the classical tradition especially the writings of saint simon comte durkheim marx weber and freud and an increasingly significant segment of social thought and criticism and for example in the contrasting visions of daniel bell and christopher lasch he then analyses both the concrete social and historical forms of expression taken by what mills calls rationality without reason and their impact on individual autonomy and the freedoms associated with democratic politics finally he develops mills s and habermas s claims that the cultivation of democratic publics and a critical social theory committed to a vibrant public life are indispensable to the protection and revitalization of the values of reason and freedom and of the practices they entail this book updates and enriches mills s influential argument by demonstrating its affinity with critical theory by showing its contributions to a critical understanding of the classical tradition and by showing its implications for contemporary social political and economic developments

considers the ideas and accomplishments of the four great sociologists within a historical context

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