

The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology

Edited by George Ritzer and J. Michael Ryan

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This edition first published 2011
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Blackwell Publishing was acquired by John Wiley & Sons in February 2007. Blackwell's publishing program has been merged with Wiley's global Scientific, Technical, and Medical business to form Wiley-Blackwell.

Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, United Kingdom

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350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The concise encyclopedia of sociology / edited by George Ritzer and J. Michael Ryan.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4051-8353-6 (hardcover : alk. paper) – ISBN 978-1-4051-8352-9 (pbk. : alk. paper)

I. Sociology–Encyclopedias. I. Ritzer, George. II. Ryan, J. Michael.

HM425.C66 2011

301.03–dc22

2010036832

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

This book is published in the following electronic formats: ePDFs 9781444392630;
Wiley Online Library 9781444392654; ePub 9781444392647

Set in 9.5/11pt Ehrhardt by SPi Publisher Services, Pondicherry, India

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 Brent Simpson, *University of South Carolina*
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 John Sinclair, *The University of Melbourne*
 Leslie Sklair, *London School of Economics*
 James Slevin, *University of Roskilde*
 Michelle Smirnova, *University of Maryland*
 David Norman Smith, *University of Kansas*
 Gregory W. H. Smith, *University of Salford*
 Irving Smith, *United States Military Academy*
 Melanie Smith, *University of Greenwich*
 Philip Smith, *Yale University*
 David A. Snow, *University of California*
 Patricia Snyder, *University of Florida*
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 Lyn Spillman, *University of Notre Dame*
 Steven Stack, *Wayne State University*
 Mark Stafford, *Texas State University*
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 Fred Stevens, *Maastricht University*
 Gillian Stevens, *University of Illinois*
 Nick Stevenson, *University of Nottingham*
 Todd Stillman, *Independent Researcher*
 John Stone, *Boston University*
 Rob Stones, *University of Essex*
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 Robin Stryker, *University of Minnesota*
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Introduction

The origins of sociology are usually traced back to 1839 and the coining of the term by Auguste Comte, one of the important thinkers in the history of the discipline. However, others trace intellectual concern for sociological issues much further back, and it could be argued that scholars (and non-scholars) have been thinking sociologically since the early history of humankind. However, it was not until about a half-century after Comte's creation of the concept that sociology began to develop as a formal and clearly distinct discipline, primarily, at least at first, in Europe and the United States. It was another French thinker, Émile Durkheim, who in the late 1800s was responsible for distinguishing clearly the subject matter of sociology from neighboring fields such as psychology and biology. Sociology became institutionalized in France (thanks, importantly, to Durkheim's efforts), as well as in Germany, Great Britain, and the United States. While sociology in the United States did not take the early lead in the development of key ideas and theories, it did move strongly in the direction of institutionalization (as did sociology in other nations, especially Great Britain). Sociology has grown enormously in the one hundred-plus years since the work of Durkheim and the early institutionalization of the field and is today a truly globe-straddling discipline. The sociological literature is now huge and highly diverse, and is growing exponentially. Journals, and therefore journal articles, devoted to sociology and its many sub-fields have proliferated rapidly, as has the number of books devoted to sociological topics. This is part of a broader issue identified by another early leader in sociology, Georg Simmel, who was concerned with the increasing gap between our cultural products and our ability to comprehend them. Sociology is one of those cultural products and this concise encyclopedia is devoted to the goal of allowing interested readers to gain a better understanding of it.

Framing The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology

The magnitude and the diversity of the sociological literature represent a challenge to a wide range of people—scholars and students in sociology and

closely related disciplines (some of which were at one time part of sociology) such as criminology, social work, and urban studies; in all of the other social sciences; and in many other disciplines. More generally, many others, including secondary school students and interested laypeople, often need to gain a sense not only of the discipline in general, but also of a wide range of specific topics and issues in the domain of sociology. Journalists and documentary filmmakers are others who frequently seek out ideas and insights from sociology. This concise encyclopedia gathers together in one place state-of-the-art information on, and analyses of, much of what constitutes contemporary sociology.

The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology is drawn largely from entries that can be found in the full version of the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology* (2007). That project constitutes what is arguably the largest and greatest single reference work in sociology and one that by being continually updated online, promises to stay that way. Despite its unrivalled position as the single best sociological resource available, however, the full-length *Encyclopedia of Sociology* can be inaccessible to the average student, scholar, or layperson interested in sociology. Hence, the idea was born to create a more concise, manageable, and affordable version of the full-length project so that the great wealth of expertise and knowledge that it represents can be utilized by more people. The two leading figures on that project – the editor-in-chief and the senior managing editor – thus created this project.

Despite being a concise version, an effort was made to cast a very wide net in terms of areas to be included. It turned out that a majority of the entries for a given area also fit into one or more – in some cases 4 or 5 – other areas. In order to clarify and simplify matters for readers, 22 general categories were created that now form the organizational base of the Lexicon to be found soon after this introduction. The Lexicon represents the best way to get a quick overview of both sociology today and the contents of the concise encyclopedia (more on the Lexicon below).

An effort was made to ensure that the authors of the entries would be from many different parts of the world. The following are among the many

countries from which authors have been drawn: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zambia.

As a result of the international diversity of authors, the entries themselves are extraordinarily diverse. The entries include topics and people that are not typically included in a work like this emanating from the West and the North. This is truly a work that represents global sociology. While a major effort was made to be sure that there was representation from all parts of the world, there are certain to be omissions and oversights. Another kind of diversity is reflected in the fact that legendary figures in the field of sociology (S. N. Eisenstadt, Kenneth Plummer, Thomas J. Scheff), contemporary leaders (Linda D. Molm, Karen S. Cook, Roland Robertson, Chandra Mukerji, Doug Kellner), young scholars (Karen Bettez Halnon, Lloyd Cox), and even some graduate students (Paul Dean, Joseph Burke) are represented as authors in these pages. This diversity of authorship helped guarantee that the entries in this volume would range all the way from the expected “old chestnuts” to those on hot, new, cutting-edge topics.

Another useful reference source found in this encyclopedia is the timeline of sociology. While this cannot cover everything that everyone would consider of particular significance, it is a listing of over 600 of the most influential events, figures, and publications to have made an impact on the field. As with the entries themselves, the timeline covers a lot of ground both temporally (stretching back over 2,500 years) and geographically (ranging from the Philippines to Argentina to Poland and many places in between).

Although many of the entries in these pages were drawn from the full-length version of this project, and this had already undergone a rigorous editorial process, all entries once again underwent another careful round of editing, and often several rewrites. Further, nearly 20 percent of these entries are original to this project. Thus, all entries in this project have been reviewed and re-reviewed by the editors for both accuracy and interest.

As pointed out above, the overall design of this ambitious project can be gleaned from the Lexicon. First, a glance at the 22 broad headings gives the reader a sense of the great sweep of sociology that includes such diverse subfields as crime and deviance, demography/population, education, fam-

ily, gender, health and medicine, media, politics, popular culture, race/ethnicity, religion, science, sexuality, social psychology, social stratification, sport, and urbanization. Second, a more detailed examination of the topics listed under each of the broad headings in the Lexicon yields a further sense not only of that sweep, but also of the enormous depth of work in sociology. Thus, the coverage of the field in this volume is both wide and deep, especially for a project of this nature. To take just one example, the crime and deviance category includes not only a general entry on crime, but also entries on such specific topics as capital punishment, child abuse, cybercrime, hate crimes, male rape, political crime, victimization, and many more. To take another example, entries on the economy range all the way from major events (Industrial Revolution and the rise of post-industrial society), theories (rational choice), and people (Karl Marx) to a wide array of other topics including money, occupations, poverty, wealth, shopping, and the ethnic/informal economy. Similar and often even greater depth is reflected in the lists of terms under most of the other headings in the Lexicon.

Sociology is a highly dynamic discipline that is constantly undergoing changes of various types and magnitudes. This greatly complicates getting a sense of the expanse of sociology. This is traceable to changes both within the field and in the larger social world that it studies.

In terms of changes in sociology, the concise encyclopedia includes many traditional concepts, such as primary groups, dyad and triad, norms, values, culture, and so on, but supplements these with a broad assortment of more recently coined and/or popularized concepts, such as distanciation and disembedding, glocalization, simulation, implosion, postpositivism, and imagined communities.

More generally, changes in the relative importance of various subareas in the discipline lead to increases (and decreases) in attention to them. Among the areas that seem to be attracting greater interest are globalization (see below) as well as the sociology of consumption and sport. A significant number of entries in the concise encyclopedia can be included under one (or more) of these headings.

The entries included in the concise encyclopedia also reflect recent changes in the larger social world. For example, the study of cybercrime is a relatively recent addition to the area of crime because the cyberspace in which it occurs is itself relatively new. Furthermore, new ways of engaging in criminal behavior on the Internet are constantly being invented. For example, a relatively new crime has emerged that involves the sending of emails to large

numbers of people around the world claiming that help is needed in transferring money from one country to another. In return, the email recipient is offered a significant share of the money. Those who respond with a willingness to help are eventually lured into transferring considerable sums to the sender of the emails in order, they are told, to help with the transfer by, for example, bribing officials. People have lost tens and even hundreds of thousands of dollars in such scams. While the perpetrators are hard to find, victims are not and are subject to prosecution for illegal activities on their part (e.g., deceiving others in order to get needed funds).

A more general recent social change that is profoundly affecting sociology is globalization. This is clearly an emerging and multifaceted process that is dramatically altering the landscape of the world. Sociology (and many other disciplines including political science, international relations, and economics) has been compelled to deal with the process and its various aspects in many different ways. Thus, we have seen the emergence of various theories and methods devoted to dealing with this topic. Furthermore, the many different aspects and dimensions of the process of globalization have attracted the notice of sociologists (and other scholars). Much consideration has been paid to the economic dimensions of globalization, but there are myriad other aspects – social, cultural, political, and the like – that are also drawing increasing attention from sociologists. Thus, in addition to a general entry on globalization, this concise encyclopedia includes a number of more specific entries on such issues as world cities, the global justice movement, and the globalization of sport, sexuality, and so on. Further, such topics and issues will emerge as globalization as a process continues to evolve and develop. Sociology will respond by devoting attention to them.

By its very nature, sociology is also highly topical and its focus is often drawn to the most recent and publicly visible developments, events, and people. There are, of course, far too many of these to cover completely in this single volume, and in any case the topics covered are constantly changing with current events. However, in order to give a sense of this topicality, some of the most important such issues are covered here. For example, changes in science are dealt with under entries on the human genome, new reproductive technologies, genetic engineering, and the measurement of risk. Topical issues in health and medicine include AIDS, aging, mental health, and well-being, stress and health, and health care delivery systems. A flavor of the

many new topics in culture of interest to sociologists is offered here in entries on popular culture icons and forms, postmodern culture, surveillance, brand culture, and online social networking.

The dynamic character of sociology makes it extremely interesting, but also very difficult to grasp in some general sense. Thus, it is useful to offer a definition of sociology, although the fact is that the complexity and diversity of the discipline have led to many different definitions and wide disagreement over precisely how to define it. While we recognize that it is one among many definitions, the following is a variant on one that we feel can be usefully employed and is consistent with the thrust of most definitions in the discipline: Sociology is the study of individuals, groups, organizations, cultures, societies, and transnational relationships and of the various interrelationships among and between them.

Unpacking this definition gives us yet another way of gaining an impression of the field of sociology. On the one hand, it is clear that sociology spans the workings of a number of levels of analysis all the way from individuals to groups, organizations, cultures, societies, and transnational processes. On the other, sociology is deeply concerned with the interrelationship among and between all of those levels of analysis. Thus, at the extremes, one might be concerned with the relationship between individuals and the transnational relationships involved in globalization. While globalization is certainly affecting individuals (for example, outsourcing is leading to the loss of jobs in some areas of the world and to the creation of others elsewhere around the globe), it is also the case that globalization is the outcome of the actions of various people (business leaders, politicians, workers). Sociology is attuned to such extreme micro (individual) and macro (global) relationships as well as everything in between. A slightly different way of saying this is that sociology is concerned, at its extremes, with the relationship between individual agents and the structures (e.g., of global transnational relationships) within which they exist and which they construct and are constantly reconstructing.

Using The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology

One way of gaining an impression of the expanse of sociology is, of course, to read every entry in this concise encyclopedia. Since few (save the co-editors) are likely to undertake such

an enormous task, a first approach would be to scan the entire Lexicon and then select headings and terms of special interest. The reader could then begin building from there to encompass areas and topics of less direct and immediate interest.

However, readers without time to work their way through the entire encyclopedia would be well advised to focus on several rather general Lexicon entries: Key Concepts, Key Figures, Theory, and Methods. Let us look at each of these in a bit more detail.

In a sense the vast majority of entries in this concise encyclopedia are key concepts in sociology, but a large number of the most important and widely used concepts in the discipline have been singled out for inclusion under the heading of Key Concepts. An understanding of this range of ideas, as well as of the content of each, will go a long way toward giving the reader an appreciation of the field. For example, one can begin at the level of the individual with the ideas of mind and self, and then move through such concepts as agency, interaction, everyday life, groups (primary and secondary), organizations, institutions, society, and globalization. This would give the reader a sound grasp of the scope of sociology, at least in terms of the extent of its concerns, all the way from individuals and their thoughts and actions to global relationships and processes. Readers could then work their way through the key concepts in a wide range of other ways and directions, but in the end they would emerge with a pretty good conception of the discipline.

A second way to proceed is through the topics under the heading of Key Figures. This is, in some ways, a more accessible way of gaining a broad understanding of the discipline because it ties key ideas to specific people and their biographical and social contexts. One could begin with Auguste Comte and the invention of the concept of sociology. One could then move back in time from Comte to even earlier figures such as Ibn Khaldun and then push forward to later key figures such as W. E. B. Du Bois, Talcott Parsons, and Robert Merton (US), Michel Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu (France), Karl Mannheim and Norbert Elias (Great Britain, although both were born in Germany), and so on. While we have restricted coverage in this concise encyclopedia to deceased key figures, it is also possible to gain a sense of the contributions of living key sociologists, either through entries written by them for these volumes (e.g., Kenneth Plummer, Thomas Scheff) or through innumerable topical entries that inevitably deal with their ideas. For example, the entry on

structuration theory deals with one of the major contributions of Anthony Giddens, globalization is closely associated with the work of Roland Robertson, while ethnomethodology was “invented” by Harold Garfinkel.

All of those mentioned in the previous paragraph are theorists, but there are many other key figures in or associated with the discipline as well. One can read entries on these people and gain an understanding of specific areas in sociology, including demography (Kingsley Davis), race relations (W. E. B. Du Bois), feminism (Betty Friedan), sexuality (Alfred Kinsey), gender (Simone de Beauvoir), media (Marshall McLuhan), urbanization (Jane Jacobs), and many more.

A distinctive quality of sociology is that it has sets of elaborated theories and methods. Even though there is no overall agreement on which theory or method to use, they provide the keys to understanding the discipline as a whole. We have already encountered a number of theorists, but the encyclopedia is also loaded with broad discussions of both general theories and specific theoretical ideas. Among the more classical theories that are covered are structural functionalism, system theory, structuralism, Marxism and neo-Marxism, critical theory, conflict theory, feminism, phenomenology, symbolic interactionism, labeling theory, role theory, dramaturgy, ethnomethodology, existential sociology, semiotics, psychoanalysis, behaviorism, social exchange theory, and rational choice theories. In addition, much attention is given to newer theories such as recent feminist theories, actor-network theory, chaos theory, queer theory, expectation states theory, as well as a variety of the “posts” – postpositivism, poststructuralism, post-Fordism, and a range of postmodern perspectives.

The methods entries have similarly diverse coverage, which can be divided roughly into qualitative and quantitative methods. All are of varying degrees of utility in studying virtually any topic of concern in sociology. Among the notable qualitative methods covered are ethnography, feminist methodology, interviewing, *verstehen*, and participant and non-participant observation. More quantitative methods covered include a variety of demographic techniques, experiments, social network analysis, and survey research. Also covered under the heading of methods is a wide range of statistical techniques. Finally, a series of broad methodological issues is dealt with, such as validity, reliability, objectivity, and many others.

Of course, since sociology is constantly expanding, so too are its key concepts, figures, theories, and methods. For example, globalization is, as we

have seen, a relatively new issue and sociological concept. It is leading to a reconceptualization of the work of classical theorists (such as Marx and Weber) and of the relevance of their ideas (imperialism, rationalization) to globalization, the generation of a wide range of new concepts (e.g., glocalization, empire, McDonaldization, time-space distancing) needed to get a handle on it, and theories (transnationalism, network society) and methods (quantitative cross-national studies as well as methods that rely on data not derived from the nation-state) appropriate to the study of global issues and processes. We can expect that in the coming years other new topics will come to the fore, with corresponding implications for how we think about the work of classical theorists as well as leading to the generation of new or revised concepts, theories, and methods.

It is safe to say that the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology* represents the largest and most complete, diverse, global, and up-to-date repository of sociological knowledge in the history of the discipline. It stands as a resource for professional sociologists, scholars in other fields, students, and interested laypeople. We are confident that this concise version has managed to maintain the essence and high academic quality that made the full-length version the success that it has been and will prove just as invaluable a resource to senior scholars, young professionals, graduate students, undergraduate students, and laypeople alike.

George Ritzer and J. Michael Ryan
Co-editors *The Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology*
University of Maryland, College Park
August 2010

Acknowledgments

We must begin by thanking all those who worked on the larger version of the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. It is through the dedication, commitment, skill, and hard work of all those involved in that project that this project was born.

We are particularly indebted to those authors who took the time to complete the often arduous task of trimming their longer entries for use in this concise version. It was no easy task to trim entries of such importance to a concise yet thorough form, but all of our authors did so impressively.

In addition, we are indebted to the host of new authors who served as replacements for authors who were unable to contribute to this project. They have indeed helped to give this concise version a fresh new flavour. In particular we would like to thank Rob Beamish who really helped to pull us through some tight spots. His commitment to this project was much appreciated.

There were a number of undergraduates whose assistance was also invaluable in completing this

project. The biggest thanks goes to Marla Bonner, whose hard work and dedication were absolutely essential in keeping this project on target and schedule. She handled many of the day-to-day details with such skill and aplomb that it enabled us to focus our time on reading and editing. She was the real backbone to the project. In addition, we would like to thank Noam Weiss and Beatriz Arcoverde who also served as valuable assistants.

An especially heartfelt thanks goes to the outstanding team at Blackwell for their endless support on this and other projects. Justin Vaughan, our publisher, has been wonderfully encouraging, supportive, and understanding throughout the many years that we have worked with him. He has our gratitude as both publisher and friend. Ben Thatcher has also been an absolutely invaluable contributor to this project. His professional skills were matched only by his sense of humor in serving as the glue that kept this project together.

Timeline

J. Michael Ryan

This timeline provides a listing of over 635 of the most influential events, figures, and publications to have made an impact on the field of sociology.

551–479 BCE	Confucius theorizes life and society. His work is primarily known through the <i>Analects of Confucius</i> , compiled by his disciples posthumously
469–399 BCE	Socrates lays the foundation of western philosophy
384–322 BCE	Aristotle makes further contributions to western science and philosophy
360 BCE	Plato debates the nature of ethics and politics in <i>Republic</i>
1377	Ibn-Khaldun writes <i>Muqaddimah</i> , which many consider one of the first important works in sociology
1516	Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i> , in which the term “utopia” is coined
1651	Thomas Hobbes's <i>Leviathan</i> discusses the requirement of surrender of sovereignty to the state needed to prevent a “war of all against all”
1692–3	Edmund Halley publishes the first life table
1712–78	Rousseau, Jean-Jacques
1713	James Waldegrave introduces an early form of game theory
1723–90	Smith, Adam
1724–1804	Kant, Immanuel
1739	David Hume publishes <i>Treatise on Human Nature</i> advocating the study of humanity through direct observation rather than abstract philosophy
1748	Baron de Montesquieu argues that society is the source of all laws in <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>
1759–97	Wollstonecraft, Mary
1760–1825	Saint-Simon, Claude-Henri
1762	Jean-Jacques Rousseau publishes <i>The Social Contract</i> , which prioritizes contracts between people and the social will over government control
1764	Reverend Thomas Bayes's <i>Essay Towards Solving a Problem in the Doctrine of Chances</i> , published posthumously, contains a statement of his Bayes theorem, the foundation of Bayesian statistics
1766–1834	Malthus, Thomas Robert
1770–1831	Hegel, G. W. F.
1772–1823	Ricardo, David
1776	Monarchical rule over America ends
1776	Adam Smith discusses the invisible hand of capitalism in <i>An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations</i>
1781	Kant argues against the radical empiricism of Hume in <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>
1783–1830	Simon Bolivar
1788	Kant argues for the essence of free will in <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
1789	Jeremy Bentham develops the greatest happiness principle in <i>Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> , introducing a theory of social morals
1789	Condorcet coins the term “social science”
1789	French Revolution begins
1790	First US Census taken
1792	Wollstonecraft's <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> , an early feminist classic

- 1798 Malthus theorizes demographics with his *Essay on the Principle of Population*
- 1798–1857 Comte, Auguste
- 1801 First British Census taken
- 1802–76 Martineau, Harriet
- 1804–72 Feuerbach, Ludwig
- 1805–59 Tocqueville, Alexis de
- 1805 The method of least squares presented by Adrien Marie Legendre in *New Methods for Determining the Orbits of Comets*
- 1806–73 Mill, John Stuart
- 1807 Hegel's *Phenomenology of Mind*, a key source on Hegel's idealism
- 1809–82 Darwin, Charles
- 1817 Ricardo's *The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation*, a classic in political economy laying out the advantages of free trade
- 1818–83 Marx, Karl
- 1820–95 Engels, Friedrich
- 1820–1903 Spencer, Herbert
- 1833–1911 Dilthey, William
- 1834 Statistical Society of London (later Royal Statistical Society) founded
- 1835–82 Jevons, William
- 1835–1909 Lombroso, Cesare
- 1837 Hegel's *Philosophy of History*, a dialectical analysis of the goal of human history
- 1837 Martineau's *Society in America*, an early sociological classic based on the author's travels through America
- 1839 Comte coins the term “sociology”
- 1839 American Statistical Association founded
- 1840 Tocqueville offers early insight into the United States in *Democracy in America*
- 1840–1902 Krafft-Ebing, Richard von
- 1840–1910 Sumner, William Graham
- 1842 Comte's *Course in Positive Philosophy* lays out a positivistic approach
- 1842–1910 James, William
- 1843 Mill in *A System of Logic* says that science needs both inductive and deductive reasoning
- 1843–1904 Tarde, Gabriel
- 1844 Marx's early humanistic thinking is laid out in *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (not published until 1932)
- 1844–1900 Nietzsche, Friedrich
- 1846 Marx authors *The German Ideology*, proposing a methodology of historical materialism
- 1848 Marx and Engels inspire the masses and call for revolution with the *Communist Manifesto*
- 1848 Mill debates the principles of socialism in his *Principles of Political Economy*
- 1848–1923 Pareto, Vilfredo
- 1850 Spencer introduces his ideas of social structure and change in *Social Statics*
- 1851 Feuerbach's *Lectures on the Essence of Religion*
- 1851 The Crystal Palace opens during first World's Fair in London
- 1854–1926 Small, Albion W.
- 1855–1936 Tönnies, Ferdinand
- 1856–1939 Freud, Sigmund
- 1857 In Britain, the Society of the Study of Social Problems is created
- 1857–1913 Saussure, Ferdinand de
- 1857–1929 Veblen, Thorstein
- 1857–61 Marx lays the groundwork for his later work on political economy and capitalism in *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*
- 1857–84 The National Association for the Promotion of Social Science operates in Britain
- 1858–1917 Durkheim, Émile
- 1858–1918 Simmel, Georg

- 1858–1922 Sarasvati, Pandita Ramabai
 1858–1941 Mosca, Gaetano
 1858–1942 Boas, Franz
 1859 Charles Darwin writes about evolution through natural selection in *The Origin of Species*
 1859–1939 Ellis, Havelock
 1859–1952 Dewey, John
 1859–1938 Husserl, Edmund
 1860–1935 Addams, Jane
 1860–1935 Gilman, Charlotte Perkins
 1861–96 Rizal, José
 1863–1931 Mead, George Herbert
 1863–1941 Sombart, Werner
 1863–1947 Thomas, William I.
 1864–1920 Weber, Max
 1864–1929 Cooley, Charles Horton
 1864–1929 Hobhouse, L. T.
 1864–1944 Park, Robert E.
 1867 Marx publishes one of the greatest insights into capitalism with *Capital*, vol. 1: *A Critique of Political Economy*
 1868–1935 Hirschfeld, Magnus
 1868–1963 Du Bois, W. E. B.
 1869–1940 Goldman, Emma
 1870–1954 Weber, Marianne
 1871–1919 Luxemburg, Rosa
 1871 The Trade Union Act makes unions legal in Britain
 1873 Spencer's *Study of Sociology* becomes the first book used as a text to teach sociology in the United States, although no formal sociology class yet exists
 1875–1962 Yanagita, Kunio
 1876–96 Spencer writes his three-volume work on *Principles of Sociology*
 1876–1924 Gökalp, Ziya
 1876–1936 Michels, Robert
 1877–1945 Halbwachs, Maurice
 1877 Galton introduces the statistical phenomenon of regression and uses this term, although he originally termed it “reversion”
 1881–1955 Radcliffe-Brown, Alfred R.
 1882–1958 Znaniecki, Florian
 1882–1970 MacIver, Robert
 1883–1950 Schumpeter, Joseph A.
 1883–1972 Takata, Yasuma
 1884 Engels argues that women are subordinated by society, not biology, in *The Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State*
 1884–1942 Malinowski, Bronislaw K.
 1885–1971 Lukács, Georg
 1886 Krafft-Ebing publishes *Psychopathia Sexualis*, one of the first systematic studies of sexuality
 1886 Sarasvati authors *The High-Caste Hindu Woman*, raising public consciousness about the plight of Hindu women and marking the beginning of family and kinship studies in India
 1886–1964 Polanyi, Karl
 1886–1966 Burgess, Ernest W.
 1887 Tönnies's *Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft* introduces his concepts of the same name
 1887 Rizal publishes his first novel, *Noli Me Tangere* [*Touch Me Not*], describing the problems of Filipino society and blaming Spanish colonial rule
 1887–1949 Sarkar, Benoy Kumar

- 1889 Charles Booth publishes his pioneering study of London poverty as *Life and Labour of the People of London*
- 1889–1968 Sorokin, Pitirim A.
- 1889–1976 Heidegger, Martin
- 1890 William James's *Principles of Psychology* is an early scientific work in psychology noted for its emphasis on the self
- 1890 Tarde distinguishes between the imitative and inventive in *Laws of Imitation*
- 1890 The first course in sociology is taught at the University of Kansas in Lawrence
- 1890 Sir James Frazer authors *The Golden Bough*, a comparative study of mythology and religion
- 1890–1947 Lewin, Kurt
- 1891 The first department of sociology and history is founded at the University of Kansas in Lawrence
- 1891 Walter Francis Wilcox's *The Divorce Problem: A Study in Statistics*
- 1891–1937 Gramsci, Antonio
- 1892 Small founds first major Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago
- 1892–1940 Benjamin, Walter
- 1893 Durkheim discusses the transition from mechanical to organic solidarity in *The Division of Labor in Society*
- 1893 New Zealand becomes the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote
- 1893 The first journal of sociology, *Revue Internationale de Sociologie*, is edited by René Worms in Paris
- 1893 The first sociological society, the Institut International de Sociologie, is founded in France
- 1893 Pearson introduces the term “standard deviation”
- 1893–1947 Mannheim, Karl
- 1893–1950 Sutherland, Edwin H.
- 1893–1956 Johnson, Charles Spurgeon
- 1893–1981 Marshall, Thomas Humphrey
- 1894 Kidd publishes *Social Evolution*, setting forth his ideas about the constant strife between individual and public interest
- 1894–1956 Kinsey, Alfred
- 1894–1962 Frazier, E. Franklin
- 1894–1966 Suzuki, Eitaro
- 1895 Durkheim presents a methodological foundation for sociology in *Rules of the Sociological Method*
- 1895 The first large-scale census of the German Empire is taken
- 1895 The first Department of Sociology in Europe is founded by Durkheim at the University of Bordeaux
- 1895 The Fabians found the London School of Economics (LSE)
- 1895 The *American Journal of Sociology (AJS)* is begun by Albion Small
- 1895 Nietzsche attacks sociology in *Twilight of the Idols*
- 1895–1973 Horkheimer, Max
- 1895–1988 Mendieta y Núñez, Lucio
- 1895–1990 Mumford, Lewis
- 1896–1988 Kurauchi, Kazuta
- 1897 Durkheim uses *Suicide* to demonstrate how even the most seemingly individual of acts still has a basis in the social
- 1897 *Rivista Italiana di Sociologia* appears in Italy
- 1897–1957 Reich, Wilhelm
- 1897–1962 Bataille, Georges
- 1897–1990 Elias, Norbert
- 1898 Durkheim founds the journal *L'Année Sociologique* (later *Annales de Sociologie*)
- 1898–1979 Marcuse, Herbert
- 1899 Veblen develops his idea of conspicuous consumption in *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

- 1899 Du Bois's *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study* is one of the first urban ethnographies
- 1899–1959 Schütz, Alfred
- 1899–1960 Becker, Howard
- 1899–1977 Thomas, Dorothy Swain
- 1900 Freud introduces his early principles of psychoanalysis in *Interpretation of Dreams*
- 1900 Husserl lays the groundwork of phenomenology in *Logical Investigations*
- 1900 Simmel discusses the tragedy of culture in *The Philosophy of Money*
- 1900 Pearson introduces the chi-squared test and the name for it in an article in the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin *Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science*
- 1900–80 Fromm, Erich
- 1900–87 Blumer, Herbert
- 1901–74 Cox, Oliver Cromwell
- 1901–76 Lazarsfeld, Paul
- 1901–78 Mead, Margaret
- 1901–81 Lacan, Jacques
- 1901–91 Lefebvre, Henri
- 1902 Cooley's *Human Nature and Social Order* is an early classic that influenced symbolic interactionism, noted for its emphasis on the “looking-glass self”
- 1902 Ebenezer Howard inspires urban reform with his *Garden Cities of To-morrow*
- 1902 Durkheim becomes the first Professor of Sociology in Europe with his appointment to a position at the Sorbonne
- 1902 The United States Census Bureau is founded
- 1902–79 Parsons, Talcott
- 1902–85 Braudel, Fernand
- 1902–92 Imanishi, Kinji
- 1903 Du Bois introduces the concepts of the veil and double consciousness in *The Souls of Black Folk*
- 1903 The LSE houses the first British Department of Sociology
- 1903 Durkheim and his nephew Marcel Mauss's *Primitive Classification* shows the basis of classification in the social world rather than the mind
- 1903 Formation of the Sociological Society in London; operates on a UK-wide basis
- 1903–69 Adorno, Theodor W.
- 1903–96 Bernard, Jessie
- 1904 Robert Park's *The Crowd and the Public* is an early contribution to the study of collective behavior
- 1904 Spearman develops rank correlation
- 1904–80 Bateson, Gregory
- 1904–90 Skinner, Burrhus Frederic
- 1905 American Sociological Society (ASS; later ASA) founded at a meeting held at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland
- 1905 Weber ties the rise of the capitalist spirit to Calvinism in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
- 1905–6 Lester Ward serves as the first President of the ASS
- 1905–80 Sartre, Jean-Paul
- 1905–83 Aron, Raymond
- 1905–99 Komarovsky, Mirra
- 1906 First ASS meeting is held in Providence, Rhode Island
- 1906 Sombart's *Why Is There No Socialism in the United States?*
- 1906 Hobhouse publishes *Morals in Evolution: A Study in Comparative Ethics*
- 1906–75 Arendt, Hannah
- 1907 Hobhouse becomes the first Professor of Sociology at a British university, the LSE (although Edvard Westermarck had held the position part-time a few weeks before Hobhouse)
- 1907 James's Pragmatism helps set the stage for the rise of symbolic interactionism

- 1907 Eugenics Society founded in the UK
- 1908 Simmel publishes *Soziologie*, a wide-ranging set of essays on various social phenomena
- 1908 *Sociological Review* founded
- 1908 William Sealy Gosset, who went by the pseudonym “student,” introduces the statistic z for testing hypotheses on the mean of the normal distribution in his paper “The probable error of a mean” (*Biometrika*)
- 1908–86 Beauvoir, Simone de
- 1908–97 Davis, Kingsley
- 1908–2006 Galbraith, John Kenneth
- 1908–2009 Lévi-Strauss, Claude
- 1909 German Sociological Association founded with Tönnies serving as the first President
- 1909 Freud delivers first lectures on psychoanalysis in the United States at Clark University
- 1909–2002 Riesman, David
- 1910 Addams’s *Twenty Years at Hull House* contains recollections and reflections of the social reformer and feminist
- 1910–89 Homans, George
- 1910–2003 Merton, Robert K.
- 1911 Frederick W. Taylor authors *The Principles of Scientific Management*, laying out his ideas of the same name
- 1911–63 Kuhn, Manford
- 1911–79 Germani, Gino
- 1911–80 McLuhan, Marshall
- 1912 Durkheim equates religion with the social in *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*
- 1912–96 Lemert, Edwin M.
- 1913 James Broadus Watson introduces the term “behaviorism”
- 1913 The first assembly line introduced in a Ford factory
- 1913–2003 Coser, Lewis
- 1914–18 World War I
- 1914–96 Maruyama, Masao
- 1914–2000 Whyte, William Foote
- 1915 Pareto’s *General Treatise on Sociology* is a major contribution to sociology by a thinker most associated with economics
- 1915 Sir Patrick Geddes authors *Cities in Evolution*, an essay on the growth of cities
- 1915–80 Barthes, Roland
- 1916 Saussure distinguishes between the signifier and the signified in *Course in General Linguistics*
- 1916–62 Mills, C. Wright
- 1916–96 Strauss, Anselm
- 1916–2006 Jacobs, Jane
- 1917 Russian Revolution begins
- 1917 Sociology taught for the first time in India at Calcutta University
- 1917–99 Whyte, William H.
- 1918 Znaniecki and Thomas use multiple methods in *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America*
- 1918 Weber’s lecture on “Science as vocation”
- 1918 The first Chair in Sociology in Germany is established at the University of Frankfurt
- 1918 The phrase “analysis of variance” appears in Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher’s “The causes of human variability” (*Eugenics Review*)
- 1918–22 Oswald Spengler’s *Decline of the West* argues that the development of civilizations follows a recognizable series of repetitive rises and falls
- 1918–90 Althusser, Louis
- 1918–2002 Blau, Peter
- 1918–2006 Tsurumi, Kazuko
- 1919 Sorokin’s doctoral dissertation, *System of Sociology*, is published secretly after the Russian Revolution

- 1919 Hirschfeld opens the Institute for Sexual Research in Berlin
- 1919 The New School for Social Research is founded
- 1919 Takata Yasuma writes *Shakaigaku Genri* [*Treatise on Sociology*], in which he attempts a general sociological theory based on methodological individualism
- 1919 First Sociology Department in India formed at Bombay University
- 1920 Znaniecki becomes the first Chair in Sociology in Poland at the University of Poznan
- 1920–76 Braverman, Harry
- 1920–80 Gouldner, Alvin
- 1920–92 Bottomore, Thomas Burton
- 1921 Park and Burgess author *Introduction to the Science of Sociology*, the first major sociology textbook
- 1921–88 Williams, Raymond
- 1921–2002 Rawls, John
- 1921–2004 Duncan, Otis Dudley
- 1921–2006 Friedan, Betty
- 1922 Weber's *Economy and Society* is published in three volumes posthumously, introducing his comparative historical methodology
- 1922 Malinowski publishes *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, in which he classifies ethnographic research into three parts based on complexity
- 1922 Social Science Research Council established in the United States
- 1922–82 Goffman, Erving
- 1922–92 Rosenberg, Morris
- 1922–96 Kuhn, Thomas
- 1922–97 Castoriadis, Cornelius
- 1922– Casanova, Pablo González
- 1923 Lukács's *History and Class Consciousness* anticipates a more humanist interpretation of Marx; it is a key source on the concept of "reification"
- 1923 The Institute of Social Research, also known as the Frankfurt School, is founded
- 1923 Weber's *General Economic History* (published posthumously)
- 1923–2003 Kitsuse, John I.
- 1923–2010 Eisenstadt, Shmuel N.
- 1924 Hisatoshi Tanabe founds Tokyo Shakaigaku Kenkyukai (Tokyo Society of Sociological Study)
- 1924 Sutherland presents the first systematic textbook study of crime in *Criminology*
- 1924 Hobhouse publishes *Social Development: Its Nature and Conditions*
- 1924–33 Elton Mayo conducts the Hawthorne Experiments on worker productivity and concludes that the very act of studying something can change it, a principle that has come to be known as the "Hawthorne effect"
- 1924–98 Lyotard, Jean-François
- 1925 Mauss develops his theory of gift exchange in *The Gift*
- 1925 Halbwachs helps establish social memory studies with *The Social Frameworks of Memory*
- 1925 Park and Burgess invigorate urban sociology with *The City*
- 1925 Fisher's *Statistical Methods for Research Workers* becomes a landmark text in the field of statistics
- 1925–61 Fanon, Franz
- 1925–82 Emerson, Richard M.
- 1925–86 Certeau, Michel de
- 1925–94 Liebow, Elliot
- 1925–95 Deleuze, Gilles
- 1925–95 Gellner, Ernst
- 1926–84 Foucault, Michel
- 1926–95 Coleman, James
- 1926–2002 Illich, Ivan

- 1927 Heidegger's *Being and Time* is an existentialist analysis of individuals' relationship to modern society
- 1927 Znaniecki founds the Polish Sociological Institute
- 1927–40 Benjamin collects notes that later become *The Arcades Project*, an early classic on, among many other things, consumption sites
- 1927–98 Luhmann, Niklas
- 1928 William I. Thomas and Dorothy S. Thomas introduce the Thomas theorem – what humans perceive as real will be real in its consequences – in *The Child in America*
- 1928–2003 Hess, Beth
- 1928–2007 Syed Hussein Alatas
- 1929 Mannheim's *Ideology and Utopia* elaborates his sociology of knowledge
- 1929 The Great Depression begins in the United States and spreads to the rest of the world
- 1929 Robert S. Lynd and Helen M. Lynd conduct the Middletown studies
- 1929 k-statistics are introduced by Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher
- 1929–68 King, Jr, Martin Luther
- 1929–2007 Baudrillard, Jean
- 1929–2008 Tilly, Charles
- 1929–2009 Ralf Dahrendorf
- 1930 J. L. Moreno invents sociometry, the cornerstone of network analysis
- 1930 Yanagita introduces his theory of shūkenron (concentric area theory) in his book *Kagyūkö* [*On Snails*]
- 1930–2002 Bourdieu, Pierre
- 1930–2004 Derrida, Jacques
- 1930– Wallerstein, Immanuel
- 1931 The Sociology Department at Harvard is established by Sorokin
- 1931 Population Association of America (PAA) founded
- 1931 The term “factor analysis” introduced by Louis L. Thurstone in “Multiple factor analysis” (*Psychological Review*)
- 1931–94 Debord, Guy
- 1931–2007 Rorty, Richard
- 1932 Schütz's *The Phenomenology of the Social World* introduces phenomenology into mainstream social theory
- 1933–77 Shariati, Ali
- 1933–84 Milgram, Stanley
- 1934 Mead develops ideas central to symbolic interactionism in *Mind, Self, and Society*
- 1934 The term “confidence interval” coined by Jerzy Neyman in “On the two different aspects of the representative method” (*Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*)
- 1934 The F distribution tabulated by G. W. Snedecor in *Calculation and Interpretation of Analysis of Variance and Covariance*
- 1934–92 Lorde, Audre
- 1935 Mannheim suggests a planned society in *Man and Society in an Age of Reconstruction*
- 1935 *American Sociological Review* (ASR) begins with Frank Hankins as editor
- 1935 The term “null hypothesis” is used by Fisher in *The Design of Experiments*
- 1935–75 Sacks, Harvey
- 1935–91 Bonfil Batalla, Guillermo
- 1935–2002 Sainsaulieu, Renaud
- 1935–2003 Faletto, Enzo
- 1935–2003 Said, Edward W.
- 1936 John Maynard Keynes introduces his economic theory in *General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money*
- 1936–79 Poulantzas, Nicos
- 1937 Parsons helps bring European theory to the United States in *The Structure of Social Action*
- 1937 Mass Observation research unit set up by Tom Harrison, Charles Madge, and Humphrey Jennings

- 1938 Skinner's *The Behavior of Organisms* is a major contribution to psychological behaviorism
- 1938 *Journal of Marriage and the Family* founded
- 1938–2002 Nozick, Robert
- 1939 Elias develops his figurational sociology in *The Civilizing Process*
- 1939–45 World War II
- 1939–2004 Lechner, Norbert
- 1940–91 Fajnzylber, Fernando
- 1941 Kinji Imanishi publishes *Seibutsu no Sekai* [*The World of Living Things*], which is a philosophical statement of his views on the origins and interactions of organisms with their environment and development of the biosphere
- 1941 William Lloyd Warner authors *The Social Life of a Modern Community*, the first volume in the Yankee City series
- 1942 Schumpeter's *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, best known for the idea of “creative destruction” in capitalism
- 1942 William Henry Beveridge publishes *Social Insurance and Allied Services*, known as the Beveridge Report, establishing the foundations for the welfare state
- 1942–2004 Anzaldúa, Gloria
- 1943 Sartre further develops existentialism in *Being and Nothingness*
- 1943 William Foote Whyte's *Street Corner Society* is a classic ethnography on street corner life in Boston
- 1943 The statistical P-value is discussed in *Statistical Adjustment of Data* by W. E. Deming
- 1944 Polanyi's *The Great Transformation* discusses issues of socialism, free trade, and the Industrial Revolution
- 1945 Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore lay the groundwork for stratification in “Some principles of stratification” (*ASR*)
- 1945 United Nations founded
- 1946 Parsons establishes the Department of Social Relations at Harvard
- 1947 Kinsey Institute founded at Indiana University at Bloomington
- 1947 Horkheimer and Adorno criticize the Enlightenment in *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*
- 1948 Alfred Kinsey, Wardell Pomeroy, and Clyde Martin revolutionize the way many think about sexuality with *The Sexual Behavior of the Human Male*
- 1948 E. Franklin Frazier is elected the first black President of the ASS
- 1948 Oliver Cromwell Cox authors his famous analysis in *Caste, Class, and Race*
- 1948–2002 Rosenfeld, Rachel
- 1949 Lévi-Strauss helps develop structuralist thinking with his *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*
- 1949 Merton's *Social Theory and Social Structure* appears, the first edition of a classic collection of essays
- 1949 Simone de Beauvoir challenges the traditional concept of “woman” in *The Second Sex*
- 1949 International Sociological Association founded with Louis Wirth serving as the first President
- 1949 Stoufer et al., *The American Soldier: Adjustment During Army Life*, vol. 1, is a major empirical study of the American military
- 1950 David Reisman, Nathan Glazer, and Reuel Denney develop inner- and other-directedness in *The Lonely Crowd*
- 1951 C. Wright Mills offers an analysis of working life in the United States in *White Collar*
- 1951 Parsons furthers his structural functional theory in *The Social System*
- 1951 Parsons develops action theory in *Toward a General Theory of Action*
- 1951 Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) founded in the United States
- 1951 SSSP begins publishing the journal *Social Problems*
- 1951 British Sociological Association is founded
- 1951 Asch experiments are published demonstrating the power of group conformity
- 1951 Arendt's *The Origins of Totalitarianism* is a classic work in political theory, especially totalitarianism
- 1951 Indian Sociological Society founded at Bombay