***G. C. Kinloch* · The Sociological Study of South Africa
An Introduction**

THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF SOUTH AFRICA: An Introduction

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Formerly of the University of Natal

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*To R.P. and H.F.D-C.,
teachers and friends*

Preface

To offer yet another introductory sociology text is highly presumptuous. The market is already flooded with thick, 'glossy' texts filled with photographs and high-sounding terminology. Hopefully, this small effort will not be viewed as contributing to such a trend. Rather, it was written in order to show the relevance of sociology to an analysis of modern South African society and to stimulate the student into applying such an approach for himself. In a society where much of the field is imported and is applied rather than theoretical, the relevance of sociology to an analysis of the local social environment is lost in the main. To demonstrate this relevance I have centred the text around three main questions:

- (1) what is sociology?
- (2) what are some of the basic sociological concepts?
- (3) how can these concepts be applied to an analysis of South African society?

As so many introductory texts are available I have not been exhaustive in my discussion of specific concepts but have pointed the student to further reading if required. A second problem also relates to the huge gaps in social science research concerning the society — a problem further aggravated by the ideology issue. In response to this, my approach has been to explore the ways in which sociological concepts could be applied

to the society in order to stimulate the student into further analysis of his own. When data are available I have tried to use these as much as possible. The main aim of the text is thus to be exploratory rather than definitive. It is clearly impossible to be definitive at this stage and would only be misleading. Thus, if the book serves to stimulate the student into sociologically analysing his local social environment it has achieved its main goal.

My appreciation for help in the above task is due to the following:

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G. C. Kinloch
Durban, May 1970

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