The Sociology of Developing Societies

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SECOND EDITION

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Voor Pappa

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Preface to the Second Edition

In a field as swiftly changing as that of development studies no book can appear in second edition without dramatic revision. Indeed, much of the dialogue surveyed in this book has shifted into new gear and is conducted with new theoretical armour. Unfortunately, I have not been able to do justice to these new theoretical developments. I have had to limit myself to those revisions which appeared to me to be the most urgent, namely a discussion of the much-debated issue of Soviet versus Chinese models of development. The reader will find this in Chapter 7.

Ankie M. M. Hoogvelt

Preface to the First Edition

It is a good convention to use a preface to pay tribute to others, and I am often impressed and a little surprised to read the ease with which other authors seem able to trace the origins and the personal history of their ideas to specific friends and colleagues.

My own situation is different for two reasons. First, there is very little that is new or original in this book, as the text is patently designed to be an introductory guide to ideas and theories which have been around for some time. The sources of these ideas and theories, where not explicitly mentioned in the text, can be found in the reference section at the end of the book. I have merely strived to bring these ideas together and to present them in a concise and systematic form which I felt to be lacking in the field. Yet, I owe the ability and the confidence to do just that to those who taught me – especially the scholarly folk at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague – as well as to those around me who create an encouraging and intellectually stimulating environment: my colleagues, students and friends at the University of Sheffield. Both groups of people are too numerous to mention individually, and I would not like to miss anyone out. But I am grateful to them all.

On the other hand, the compelling need to write on the subject of development, and my understanding of the concrete realities which sometimes defy, sometimes painfully fit, the development theories, I *can* trace quite clearly to just such a handful of friends: friends in the developing countries themselves. Caught in a web of contradictions not of their making, nor indeed perhaps of their unmaking, they have shown me by their experience what the theories were, and were not, about. To them I am even more grateful, but I doubt if a recording of their names on these pages is a fitting form of tribute.

This leaves me with a debt to those who, in the preparation of manuscripts, are always landed with the most tedious job, namely the typists – especially Thelma Kassell and Rene Shaw – who have typed the following pages more often than anyone could possibly wish to read them. And then, of course, there was Pauline, who – between commas – did a fine job of the proofs.

University of Sheffield
March 1975

Ankie M. M. Hoogvelt