A Short History of Sociological Thought

Also by Alan Swingewood

The Sociology of Literature (co-author)

Marx and Modern Social Theory

The Novel and Revolution

The Myth of Mass Culture

A Short History of Sociological Thought

Alan Swingewood

Lecturer in Sociology, London School of Economics

Macmillan Education

ISBN 978-0-333-31079-3 ISBN 978-1-349-17524-6 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-17524-6

© Alan Swingewood 1984

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1984 978-0-333-31078-6

All rights reserved. For information, write:

St. Martin's Press, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Published in the United Kingdom by The Macmillan Press Ltd

First published in the United States of America in 1984

ISBN 978-0-312-72150-3

ISBN 978-0-312-72151-0 (pbk.)

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Swingewood, Alan.

A short history of sociological thought.

Bibliography: p.

Includes index.

1. Sociology—History. I. Title

HM19. S975 1984 301'.09 84-40119

ISBN 978-0-312-72150-3

ISBN 978-0-312-72151-0 (pbk.)

Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
---------------------	---

PART I FOUNDATIONS

1 Origins of Sociology 7

Human nature and social order	8
Vico: science and history	10
Montesquieu	13
The Scottish Enlightenment	17
Problems of method	20
The emergence of class	22
The dialectics of social change	24

2 Industrialisation and the Rise of Sociological Positivism 29

Empiricism and positivism	30
The French Revolution and sociology	32
The concept of industrial society: Saint-Simon	36
Comte and positive science	40
Positivism and determinism	47
Sociology, political economy and the division of labour	48
Evolutionism and sociological positivism: Mill and Spencer	51

Contents

3 Marxism: A Positive Science of Capitalist Development 59

The development of Marxism	62
Alienation of labour	63
The concept of ideology	72
Marx's method: materialism and dialectics	80
Class formation and class consciousness	84
Laws of development: the problem of historical determinism	88

PART II CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGY

4 Critique of Positivism: I Durkheim 97

Durkheim and the development of sociology	97
Positivism and morality	105
Division of labour, social cohesion and conflict	112
Anomie	117
Suicide and social solidarity	119
Functionalism, holism and political theory	125

5 Critique of Positivism: II Social Action 129

Understanding and the social sciences: Dilthey	129
Formal sociology: Simmel and sociation	134
Understanding and the problem of method: Weber	142
Ideal types and social action	147
Religion and social action: capitalism and the Protestant ethic	151
Capitalism and culture: Sombart and Simmel	159
Social action and social system: Pareto	165

6 The Sociology of Class and Domination 173

Marx's theory of domination	174
The state and class domination	176
The theory of class: Weber	184
Capitalism, bureaucracy and democracy: Weber's theory of domination	187

Contents

7 Marxism and Sociology	196
Marxism after Marx	196
Marxism as revolutionary consciousness: Lukács and the concept of totality	201
Culture and domination: Gramsci and the concept of hegemony	207
Marxism and the sociology of intellectuals: Gramsci	211
Lukács and Gramsci on sociology	216
Marxism and sociology: the Austro-Marxists	220
Conclusion	222

PART III MODERN SOCIOLOGY

8 Functionalism	227
Sociological functionalism: general features	233
The concept of system	236
Functionalism and the dialectic of social life: Merton	241
Functionalism, social conflict and social change	246
Functionalism and stratification	251
9 Self, Society and the Sociology of Everyday Life	254
Action theory and the concept of self: the early and later Parsons	254
Psycho-analysis and self: Freud	260
The social self: Mead and symbolic interactionism	264
Sociological phenomenology: Schutz and the reality of everyday life	270
10 Structuralism	276
The development of structuralism: Saussure	277
Post-Saussurian structuralism: language and culture	280
Marxism and structuralism	288

Contents

11 The Sociology of Knowledge and Culture 294

The sociology of knowledge and sociological theory 294

Mannheim: general elements of the sociology of knowledge 298

The sociology of intellectuals 302

Ideology and Utopia 305

Knowledge and mass society: Mannheim and the Frankfurt School 307

12 Democracy, Industrialisation and Sociological Theory 312

Marxism, industrialism and democracy 313

The theory of post-industrial society 317

Problems of legitimation 321

Theory and industrial society: convergence or diversity? 326

Further Reading 330

Bibliography 338

Index 350

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Origins

Eighteenth-century social thought (Vico, Montesquieu, Smith, Ferguson, Rousseau)

The development of nineteenth-century sociological positivism (Comte), sociological evolutionism (Spencer) and Marxism (Marx and Engels)

Classical Sociology

Weber, Simmel, Pareto
(the tradition of *verstehen*
sociology and critique of
positivism and evolutionism)

Durkheim's critique of the
positivist tradition

The development of Marxism after Marx involving a critique of materialism and evolutionism: Labriola, Gramsci, Sorel, Lukács

Modern Sociology

Phenomenological Sociology (Schutz)
Freud, Mead, Mannheim

Functionalism
Systems Theory and Action Theory
(Parsons)
Structuralism