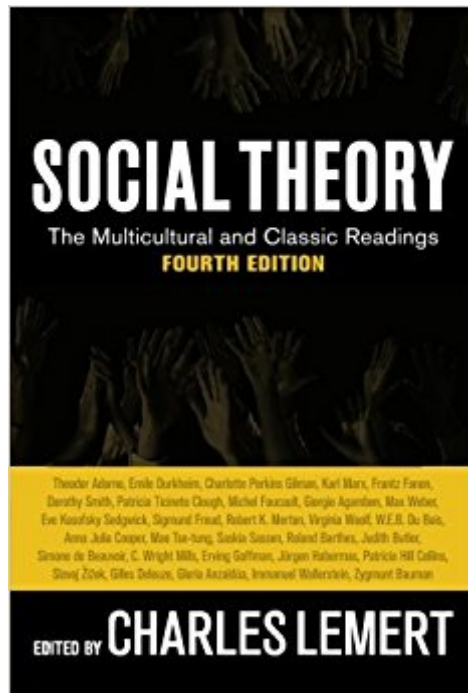


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# Social Theory: The Multicultural And Classic Readings



## Synopsis

This first truly multicultural anthology collects important, readable texts representative of the full range of social theory from the nineteenth century to the present. Now that social theory is practiced in many disciplines, it is necessary to reflect on the variety of theories being read today and the earlier sources that are customarily neglected. If today we read Donna Haraway, Henry Louis Gates, and Michel Foucault, we should also read and understand Charlotte Perkins Gilman and W.E.B. Du Bois, alongside Max Weber, Georg Simmel, William James, and others from the end of the nineteenth century. This book, therefore, sets a wider gauge for the understanding of the history of social thought than could have been possible before. It brings together theories in unexpected and exciting ways: those of Talcott Parsons and Dorothy Smith, Robert K. Merton and Jacques Lacan, Immanuel Wallerstein and Frantz Fanon, James Coleman and Molefi Asante. Extensive introductory essays by the editor situate the readings in their historical place and time, identifying the currents of social change that shaped fundamental questions of modern and postmodern life. This fourth edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to include cutting-edge documents on teletechnologies, masculinities, rhizomes, bare life, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lemert's book, *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classical Readings*, is worth reading, but it covers an enormously broad range of theoretical perspectives. In some instances, coverage of any one theorist and concepts crucial to understanding his or her work is startlingly brief. George Herbert Mead, for example, is given only five pages to explain the structure of the self and the key

role it plays in his social behaviorism. Furthermore, while Lemert's own comments are learned and valuable, this is not the sort of book that provides well-developed concrete examples. Beyond that, little attention is given to synthesizing the complementary efforts of disparate theorists. While a useful book, this is the kind of text which invites misunderstanding and abuse. Readers are unimpressed by the apparent shallowness of great thinkers who are given too little attention. Ill-tutored instructors are inclined to present material in a disconnected list-like fashion, without developing the ideas listed by Lemert. Perhaps the character of the book was determined by the nature of a specific market at which it was aimed. Sad.

I purchased this book for a class in college. It was way cheaper than what the school bookstore was selling it for. Therefore, I was pleased to save a lot of money. I can't say if I liked the book or not it was mandatory for passing the class.

This text is very thorough and covers a lot of different . Everything is well laid out and it is a must read for anyone who is receiving an education in a field pertaining to sociology. I will say that while there was a broad range of contributions, I wished there had been more pieces written by female theorists.

This book is INCREDIBLY dense. I'd much rather have thrown it out a window. But really couldn't do that in a Sociology class. Tough read, but great when you're trying to learn about the Sociological basics/theories.

Bought this for a class, but I'll keep it around for a while!Chronologically sorted, this is a very nice anthology with a wide range of authors for anyone dipping their toes into social theory be it for economics, psychology, or for, of course, sociology!

This collection is unmatched in its comprehension, particularly in regards to its inclusion of a wide variety of contemporary perspectives.

Excellent resource for undergrads and grads needing to have texts by the classical theorists (Marx, Engles, Durkheim, Weber and Freud) and the more modern theorists at their fingertips. Highly recommend as a text for classes as well as for people interested in social theories.

Heavy on Sociology, yet fantastic for anyone interested in the progression of Western social theory since the Industrial Revolution.

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