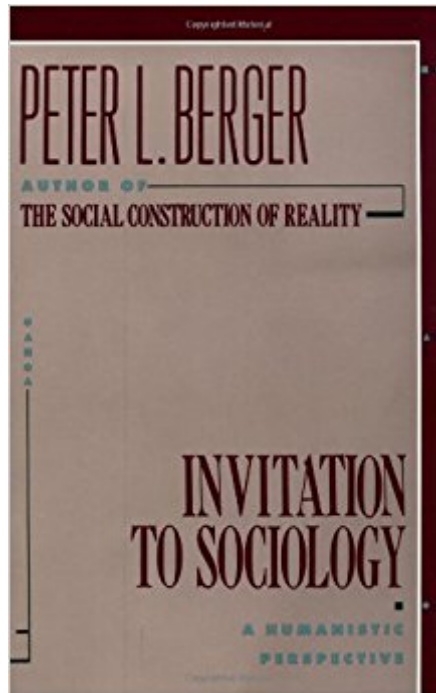


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Invitation To Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective



Synopsis

This lucid and lively book, punctuated with witty, incisive examples, is addressed both to the layman who wants to know what sociology is all about and to students and sociologists who are concerned about the larger implications and dimensions of their discipline. Professor Berger places sociology in the humanist tradition and recognizes it as a "peculiarly modern, peculiarly timely form of critical thought." Without underestimating the importance of scientific procedures in sociology, he points out its essential affinity with history and philosophy, and he shows how sociology in this sense can contribute to a fuller awareness of the human world. "Unlike puppets," he notes, "we have the possibility of stopping in our movements, looking up and perceiving the machinery by which we have been moved. In this act lies the first step towards freedom." Professor Berger discusses this consciousness in detail, in relation to one's own biography, to the operations of social institutions, and to the makeup of an individual as a product of these institutions. In each instance, he outlines the major contributions to sociology of such classical sociologists as Weber, Pareto, and Durkheim in Europe; Veblen, Cooley, and Mead in the United States; and some of the most important names in the field today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This lucid book presents the discipline of sociology to both the general reader and the student. Viewing sociology in the humanist tradition, Berger points out its affinity to history and philosophy, as well as its need for scientific procedures.

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Passionate, witty and thought-provoking! If you're a stranger to sociology, this inspiring and unpretentious little book may very well be the beginning of an enduring fascination. If you already know about the discipline, it'll remind you why you became interested in the first place - and make you chuckle in the process.

Berger discusses the role and place of sociology in the modern world. He stresses sociological consciousness--seeing how macro structures shape individuals. He shows how what we think to be our long-standing social traditions and norms are really just arbitrarily socially constructed. Here he expands on the debunking tendency of sociology to question our commonly accepted assumptions about the social world. There are great examples of how society forms us internally and surrounds us externally. Berger demonstrates the different sociological perspectives as well as touching lightly on the different theorists (Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, etc.). In showing how one is boxed in by social forces, he uses a great metaphor of a person who stands in the center of concentric circles of social control (law, state, occupation, race, class, family, religion, etc.). Society also shapes us internally by providing systems of meaning, or ideologies, that help us make sense of the world. He relates sociology not only to the social sciences but to the humanities and philosophy. The ethical considerations for sociological research are looked at in "Sociological Machiavellianism". The overall theme is that society limits freedom and individuals should question tradition by debunking the established order. Easy and interesting, he makes sociology relevant to everyday life.

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Great for me sociology class. Never had a uni book so cheap

Definitely not a conventional introduction to sociology, not at all textbook-like, but it introduces you to the most basic sociological concepts, makes you really think about life in general. It might be good to read an actual textbook before this, so you can really appreciate the unique style and ideas. Like it says at the beginning, it's meant to be read not studied. Great book!

I have to say: great quality and excellent price; shipping didn't take very long, either!

The book was good for the subject. I bought it for a class.

very classic book. good for introduction,

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