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PETER KIVISTO

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JOHN P. WALSH and ANNE ZACHARIAS-WALSH

Marx’s theory of surplus value is applied to contemporary work trends, which involve an expansion of the workday without providing additional compensation.
2. The Weberian Theory of Rationalization and the McDonaldization of Contemporary Society

GEORGE RITZER

Through the concept of McDonaldization, Weber’s ideas about the rationalization of modern society are applied to the fast-food industry, which is seen as a model for an increasing number of sectors of American society.

3. Surfing the Net for Community: A Durkheimian Analysis of Electronic Gatherings

ANNE M. HORNSBY

Drawing on Durkheim’s ideas about what creates stable and cohesive communities, this chapter analyzes whether electronic gatherings on the Net are new forms of community and whether humans are developing a new type of social relationship using computers.

4. Alcohol-Related Windows on Simmel’s Social World

WILLIAM J. STAUDENMEIER, Jr.

Ranging from individual social action to large-scale social change, Simmel’s major ideas are applied to historical and contemporary alcohol-related examples.

PART 2: Contemporary Theories and Their Connections to the Classics

Introduction

PETER KIVISTO

A sketch of major contemporary theories, this introduction stresses how theorists today build on past theories while at the same time going beyond them.
5. **Criminalizing Transgressing Youth: A Neofunctionalist Analysis of Institution Building**

PAUL COLOMY and LAURA ROSS GREINER

Neofunctionalism, a new theoretical paradigm that builds on the older functionalist perspective, is used to help us understand the shift in the opinions of the public at large and the actions of politicians in their responses to youth crime.


CHRISTOPHER PRENDERGAST

By using a structuralist explanation based in part on exchange theory and rational choice theory, this chapter is intended to show that understanding the social system requires insights that penetrate beneath the social psychological level to the realm of social structure.

7. **Critical Theory, Legitimation Crisis, and the Deindustrialization of Flint, Michigan**

STEVEN P. DANDANEAU

Germany’s leading social theorist, Jürgen Habermas, helps us to understand, explain, and perhaps even resist the destruction of a once-vibrant American community.

8. **The Socially Constructed Body: Insights From Feminist Theory**

JUDITH LORBER and PATRICIA YANCEY MARTIN

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