

unlike Burrell and Morgan who present four major paradigms for the study of organizations, the former present a single perspective. The multi-paradigm approach of Burrell and Morgan limits their ability to critically evaluate these various perspectives. On the other hand, Clegg and Dunkerley's strong commitment to organizations as an aspect of the labor process allows them to be more evaluative and critical of organization theory, and provides the reader with a more complete understanding of the literature.

This book should be useful to sociologists, political scientists, economists, and business schools. It is an outstanding piece of scholarship and is the most comprehensive analysis of organizations and organization theory available. The emphasis on capital accumulation, the labor process, and the use of historical data provides a solid foundation for the theoretical arguments presented in the concluding chapter. Although most of the data is from British sources with which American audiences may not be familiar, this book should complement their overall knowledge of organizations. Because of the breadth and depth of analysis this book should be useful to most students of organizations from the undergraduate to those familiar with current organizational literature.

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#### REFERENCES

- Burrell, Gibson and Garth Morgan  
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- Marglin, Stephen  
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Paul B. Horton and Gerald R. Leslie, *The Sociology of Social Problems*, Seventh Edition. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1981, 672 pp. \$19.95 (cloth).

The field of social problems has been inundated with textbooks designed to present the reader with a massive body of data on numerous topics. The seventh edition of *The Sociology of Social Problems* is another addition to the collection of excessively long and underdeveloped social problems texts. Teachers of this subject, and students as well, are aware of the tremendous, if not impossible, task of attempting to study all of the specific problems presented in this type of text. In this most recent edition Horton and Leslie attempt to assess fifteen different social problems. The weakness of this approach is that limitations of space only permit a shallow analysis of the topics.

The nature and extent of each problem is presented along with a discussion of the problem's history. In addition, each problem is analyzed through three theoretical perspectives: social disorganization, value-conflict and personal deviation. A list of suggested readings follows each chapter and the work is concluded with name and subject indexes.

Part I consists of three chapters and is basically an introductory unit. The authors provide their definition of a social problem along with an explanation of the three theoretical perspectives and a discussion of how data should be interpreted. This section is much too long (76 pages) and could easily be reduced by condensing or eliminating some of the sections, particularly the sections on the fallacies of social problems, and attitudes and techniques of successful liars.

Part II, the longest section of the book, presents the fifteen social problems. By their own admission the authors arranged the chapters to present "traditional" social problems first before moving to more recent concerns. Two problems plague this scheme. First, the entire section is too long (518 pages). Most social problems texts divide the problems into three or four sections. The division permits greater ease in assigning readings and administering examinations. Second, the flow of the book is rather coarse because preceding and succeeding chapters

often have little in common. Again, the categorization of chapters into units with a central theme would improve the continuity of the book.

Space does not permit an assessment and explanation of individual chapters. Little fault can be found with the content of each chapter, but one of the major weaknesses is the underdevelopment of each topic presented: that which is omitted. For example, the omission of the works of C. Wright Mills and G. William Domhoff in the chapter on vested interest groups is an error of considerable magnitude. The chapter addressing population problems includes a section on internal migration in the United States but fails to recognize the "population turnaround" that has occurred in the 1970s. The chapter on environment devotes one short paragraph to a discussion of nuclear energy, one of the most controversial and contested environmental issues. Because so many social problems are presented the theoretical analysis of each problem is often quite brief and fails to provide an adequate understanding of how each perspective explains the specific problem presented.

As previously mentioned, one of the major limitations of the text is its excessive length. One recommendation would be to exclude certain topics from discussion. The authors have devoted a chapter each to religion, communication, and civil liberties. While these subjects are areas of concern the question of whether they satisfy the conditions of a social problem, as defined in Chapter 1, must be raised. The authors devote two chapters to the problems of crime and delinquency. This discussion is one of the more comprehensive of the book. Since the authors can't increase the number of chapters twofold to achieve a more complete depiction of each problem, the best solution would be to limit the number of social problems and provide a more comprehensive analysis. A few new texts have opted for this shorter and more complete format. Feagin (1982) restricts his text to eleven topics and provides the length of discussion each topic should be accorded.

The concluding section consists of one chapter titled "Retrospect and Introspect." The three theoretical perspectives

are again addressed along with a discussion of attempts to remedy some of the problems and the difficulties encountered in those attempts. This unit is more fluid than the preceding one and offers a reasonable conclusion to an otherwise mundane text.

In fairness to the authors the book is easy to read and the internal organization of each chapter is sound. However, there are frequent occasions where key concepts go undefined or have been given fragmentary definitions. In addition, the literature reviews do not always include the more recent studies.

In summary, Horton and Leslie have committed the common error of attempting to include too many topics at the expense of a developed analysis. By focusing on fewer problems, providing needed depth (as in the crime and delinquency chapters), and with a better organization of the chapter sequence, the book could be a valuable addition to the field. As it now stands the book is not readily distinguishable from the numerous other texts that have saturated the field of social problems.

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#### REFERENCE

- Feagin, Joe R.  
1982 *Social Problems—A Critical Power-Conflict Perspective*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.