Mid-American Review of Sociology

While it can hardly be argued that such statements are without support, the wisdom of sprinkling them through an introductory textbook is suspect. All disciplines have those who share certain intellectual habits which are less than ideal, and sociology is no exception. But for those of us who feel that the sociological mode of consciousness offers something valuable to people in all walks of life and wish to make it more widely available, such broad indictments are counter-productive.

In sum, Deviants and Deviance may be more useful as a textbook in courses on deviance which are made up of students who already have a fairly well-developed capacity to evaluate their readings critically—and even here it may be necessary for the instructor to clarify and correct the text from time to time.

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A New Look at the Silenced Majority: Women and American Democracy by Kirsten Amundsen won't be an entirely new look for those who have been involved in the feminist movement for several years. They are already familiar with the myths surrounding women and the superficiality of the token or isolated advances that have been made. They will even be familiar with a number of the many studies cited to support this disappointed outlook.

But newcomers to the movement, students perhaps, will be introduced to a fairly comprehensive review of both empirical studies and essays concerning the women's movement. Ms. Amundsen writes succinctly, moving the book at a fast pace through eight chapters with thorough documentation in 160 pages. Yet she covers a broad spectrum of feminist issues and illustrates with much detail the ubiquitous nature of sexism and its consequences. The destructive myths of the pampered American woman are debunked. The realities of being second-class citizens are thoroughly documented. Ms. Amundsen does a superior job of presenting sexism as a systematic integral part of our entire institutionalized cultural order. Her discussions on power and democracy are particularly worthwhile.

On occasion the brisk writing style leaves one with the impression that she may have indulged in a naive assumption or simplistic solution, but these could be nothing more than a failure to qualify general statements.

Ms. Amundsen concludes that the solution can be no less comprehensive than the problem. In her final chapter, “The Liberated Society”, she visualizes many of these changes and proposes a number of strategies for making them realities.

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