Sociology

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This book is offered to teachers of sociology in the hope that it will help our students understand their place in today's society and in tomorrow's world.

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John J. Macionis

Sociology

Nineteenth Edition

John J. Macionis
Kenyon College

Pearson

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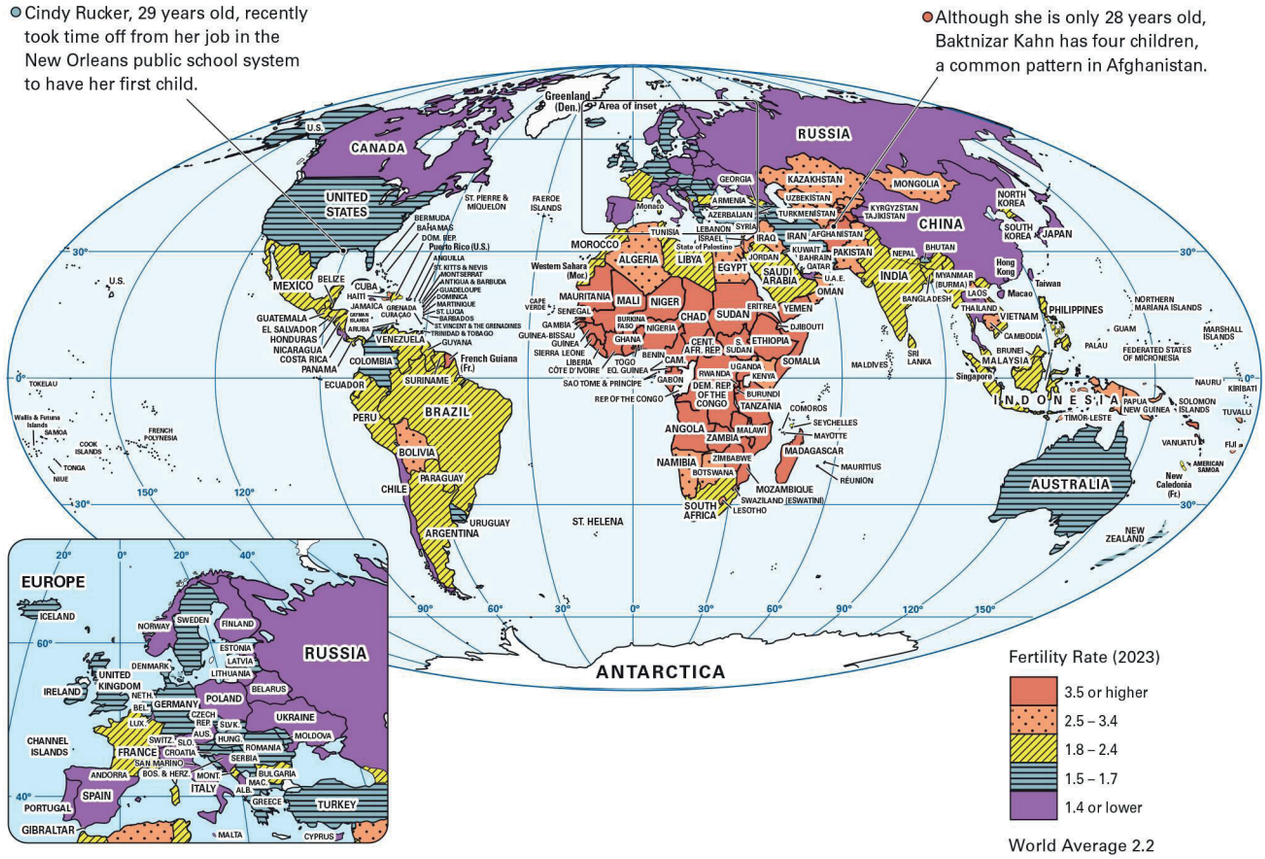

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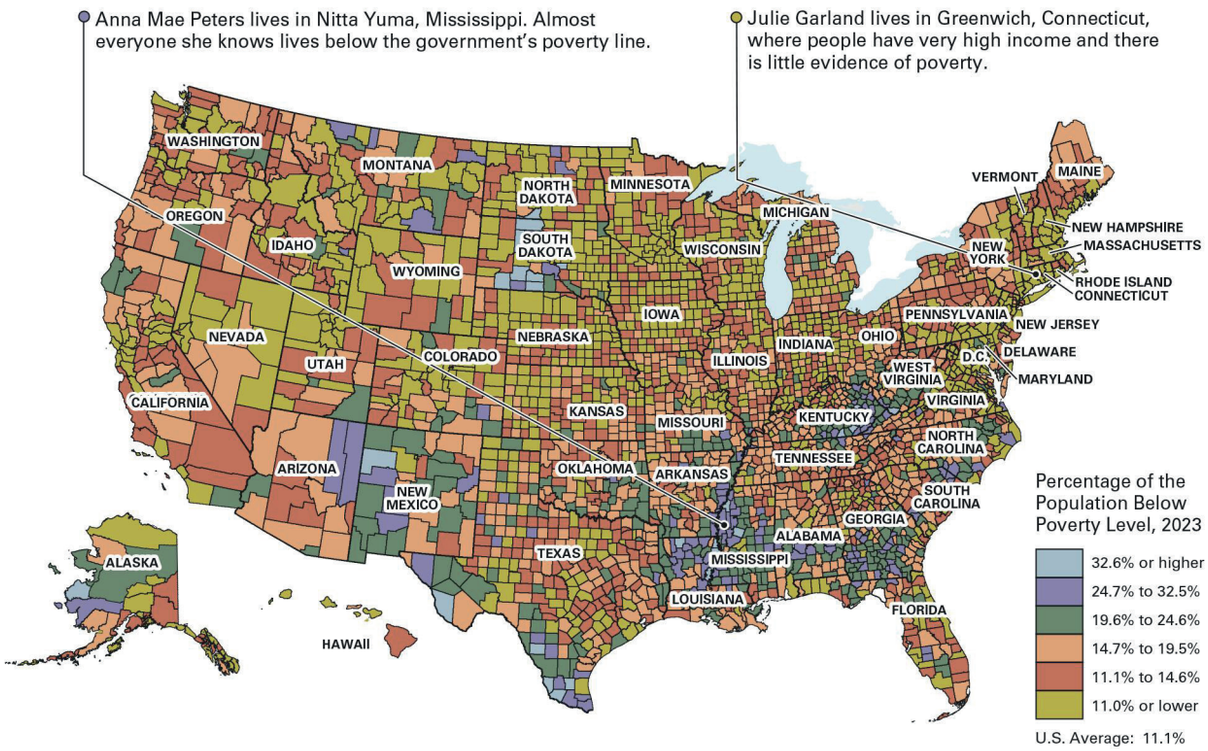

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Preface

As we approach the 250th anniversary of this country's founding in 1776, we might reflect on the state of our nation. Over the course of history, the size of the U.S. economy has increased dramatically, and our nation's level of per-person income (about $60,000 annually) ranks fourth in the world. At the same time, the United States doesn't even make the top twenty-five in terms of having a low level of poverty. We are proud of our political democracy, yet our population remains distrustful of the federal government and politically polarized. We like to think of ourselves as a safe and peaceful nation, yet our country is not even ranked in the top 100 nations in terms of peacefulness; in addition, our nation's crime rate stands above that of other high-income countries. Ours is a country of stunning natural beauty, yet our people contend with rising temperatures, more severe weather, and increasing incidences of wildfires, storms, and flooding.

Perhaps we should not be surprised to learn from a 2025 Gallup poll that just 44 percent of U.S. adults say they are "very satisfied" with their lives, the lowest level recorded since Gallup began these surveys in 1979. This low level of satisfaction is made worse by the political polarization that has left us more divided than ever over the causes of the country's troubles and what to do about them. People are lining up on one side or another as they confront issues—and one another—over immigration, the size of the federal government, climate change, racial conflict, increasing economic inequality, rising rates of crime, and frightening levels of gun violence.

Consensus seems elusive, perhaps because people disagree not only over policy but also about what kind of nation we want to be. Many of us feel angry, afraid, and overwhelmed.

In such a situation, what are we to do? We might find an answer to this question in the wisdom offered more than sixty years ago by a sociologist named C. Wright Mills. Our feeling that life is spinning out of control, that changes and challenges threaten to overwhelm us, results from the fact that our personal problems are rooted in social forces far bigger than we are. We must turn our attention to larger societal patterns—which we do by making use of the sociological imagination—for a deeper understanding of what's going on and why. Using the sociological perspective, we draw insight and also gain power because we are now confronting the source of our distress. Focusing on how our national and global societies operate, we are able to join together with others to generate change and, in the process, transform ourselves.

For almost 200 years, sociologists have been working to better understand how society operates. We do not arrogantly imagine that we have *all* the answers, but we are confident that we have learned quite a lot that we can share with others.

To our students, we sociologists offer an introduction to the fascinating and very practical study of the social world. Our invitation is this: Share what we have learned and then consider appropriate paths of action. After all, as we come to know our world, we all have a responsibility to do what we can to improve it.

Sociology, Nineteenth Edition, provides you with a comprehensive understanding of how this world works. You will find this title to be informative, engaging, and even entertaining. Before you have finished the first chapter, you will discover that sociology is both enlightening and extremely useful. Most important, *sociology is a field of study that can change the way you see the world and open the door to many new opportunities*. What could be more exciting than that?

What's New in the Nineteenth Edition

Here's a quick summary of the new material found throughout *Sociology, Nineteenth Edition*.

New! More interactive learning. Digital learning engages students by transforming passive reading of the printed page into interactive discovery in a digital world. John Macionis is committed to making all his titles as interactive as possible. In this revision, you will find a number of dynamic and interactive features that will increase student interest and learning.

- **Window on the World Global Maps**, updated for this edition, are interactive and come with a companion map inviting students to discover how one variable (such as a nation's level of economic development) is linked to another variable (such as degree of gender equality).
- **Seeing Ourselves National Maps**, several new and the rest updated for this edition, show national patterns and also invite students to zoom in to explore their own local communities. National maps are also presented with companion maps so that students can compare the patterns to discover how one variable (such as the rate of

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teenage pregnancy) appears to be linked to another (such as the rate of poverty).

- **Power of Society Predictive Graphs** invite students to estimate social patterns from our society's past, present, or future and then allow them to compare their estimates to research results. Many students, for example, underestimate the extent of inequality in U.S. society or overestimate the share of the population that is born abroad. Power of Society graphs are found at the beginning of each chapter.
- **The digital version's interactive technology** empowers students to dig deeper into maps and figures, following their own interests to experience "discovery learning."

Always new! Keeping our promise of currency. *Sociology, Nineteenth Edition,* represents a major revision in response to ongoing change in our world. This transformative revision is supported by more than 1,500 research references, with *more than 80 percent* of these references published between 2020 and 2025.

New! Theoretical analysis plus political analysis. *Sociology, Nineteenth Edition*, provides theoretical analysis in every chapter, applying all our discipline's approaches. At the same time, students hear political leaders and mass media pundits discuss issues using the language of *politics*. Therefore, this revision expands the analysis to include political insights and arguments that reflect various positions on the political spectrum, as well as the results of political surveys involving topics at hand. Gaining both theoretical and political literacy enables students to link the sociology they learn to their everyday lives as active citizens.

New! All the data. More than 2,300 different statistics are found in this title. *Every one* of these statistics has been updated to reflect the latest available data. This revision contains the most recent data on the inequality of income and wealth, gun violence, abortion, unemployment, crime, health, the diversity of our society, and other variables. A large share of these data reflect the importance of race, class, and gender.

New! Examples and illustrations. In this age of instant social media, the historical literacy of many students is limited to about two years. Therefore, the nineteenth edition provides recent examples and illustrations, including the 2024 presidential election, ongoing global military conflict, recent school shootings, recent Supreme Court decisions, and political trends and events so that you can have confidence that your course is both relevant and current. The photography and fine art programs also have been refreshed.

Updated! Current events bulletins. Found at the beginning of each chapter, in the digital version, these news bulletins inform students of the most recent events and current trends related to the chapter's focus. New bulletins appear in the nineteenth edition, and John Macionis will continue to update these bulletins for your students twice each year going forward.

Updated! Full chapter on social media. Macionis titles are the first in sociology to include a full chapter on social media, and this timely chapter has been heavily updated to reflect the large and growing body of research focusing on the effects of social media on individuals, relationships, and society as a whole. In the nineteenth edition, there is a new and expanded discussion of artificial intelligence.

Updated! Power of Society figures. If you could teach your students only one thing in the introductory course, what would it be? Most instructors would probably answer, "To understand the power of society to shape people's lives." Each chapter in this title begins with a Power of Society figure that does exactly that—encouraging students to give up some of the common conviction that life is a matter of personal choice by presenting evidence of how society shapes our major life experiences. Examples include how race and schooling guide marriage choices and how class position influences life expectancy. All of these figures have been updated for this revision.

Updated! Photography and fine art. The rich program of images in this title is continuously updated to better reflect current popular culture and the diversity of our society. Paging through **Chapter 1**, for example, reveals that the images are timely and a majority include women and people of color.

Updated! Primary source readings. Each chapter includes access to primary source readings by notable sociologists that invite students to engage with researchers and analysts.

Fully involved author! John Macionis is the only author who does it all, creating all the content and writing all the assessment questions and supplemental material, including the Instructor's Resource Manual. John also presents a series of webinars on timely topics. If you use the new edition in your course, John would be honored to join you online for a class meeting.

New and Updated Material by Chapter

Chapter 1: The Sociological Perspective

This chapter describes and applies the perspective that defines the discipline of sociology. The updated Power of Society figure shows how race, schooling, and age guide people's selection of marriage partners. Pairs of interactive maps invite exploration of the link between women's fertility and a nation's level of economic development and also confirm a link between suicide rates and population density, just as Durkheim suggested. The profile of the world's low-, middle-, and high-income nations is updated. An updated discussion shows how race, ethnicity, and gender shape professional baseball. There are new data about how gender

shapes preferences in a romantic partner, number of children born to parents in nations around the world, and suicide rates in the United States. Sociology's theoretical paradigms are presented, explained, and applied, and the chapter also supplements major theoretical orientations with political analysis, empowering students to become engaged citizens.

In this new chapter, 85 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the new chapter:
"When it comes to love, the decisions people make do not simply result from the process philosophers call 'free will.'"

"As shown in Global Map 1–1, women in the United States, on average, have about two children (the actual average is 1.7) during their lifetimes. In Algeria, however, the average is about three; in Liberia, about four; in Afghanistan, five; in Mali, six; in Niger, the average woman has seven children."

"Learning to use the sociological perspective, to engage in theoretical analysis, as well as becoming familiar with political analysis, will provide a suite of powerful skills that enhance understanding and encourage active citizenship."

Chapter 2: Sociological Investigation
This chapter provides an analysis of research based on science and other approaches and presents various methods of sociological investigation. The updated Power of Society figure shows that, among males in their late twenties, White people have a college graduation rate double that of Black people. Illustrations and applications of research methods demonstrate the power of race. The digital version offers an interactive national map that shows the census return rate for counties across the United States; a companion map shows median household income for all counties, inviting students to discover the link between these two variables. The discussion of gender bias in research has been expanded to include the bias of ignoring same-sex and transgender people.

In this revised chapter, 60 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"If you regularly watch television shows like *COPS,* you might think that police arrest only people from 'bad' neighborhoods."

"Just because two variables change together does not mean that they are linked by a cause-and-effect relationship."

"No one can achieve total scientific objectivity because humans are rarely neutral about issues that matter."

"Today, we can extend gender blindness to include what we might call hetero-blindness as well. In this case, researchers studying marriage would consider only heterosexual couples, ignoring couples with partners of the same sex."

Chapter 3: Culture
This revised chapter explores the cultural variation of the United States and the larger world. Predictive graphing invites students to explore attitudes toward abortion in various nations in the world. A pair of interactive global maps asks students to discover the link between the share of foreign-born people and a nation's level of economic development. A pair of interactive maps invites students to analyze the varying share of people speaking a language other than English at home for counties across the United States. Updated content begins with international data on attitudes toward abortion; data on the steady loss of global languages; the latest on the share of the world's population speaking Chinese, English, or Spanish as a first or second language; the latest on the share of foreign-born people in nations around the world; and the far greater importance attached to making money among young people today compared to those who came of age in the 1960s.

A new discussion focuses on political polarization and the "culture wars" that divide the U.S. population. A new section discusses change in cultural values from an emphasis on individualism toward a focus on equity for all categories of the population.

In this revised chapter, 77 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Culture is our link to the past, how we make sense of the present, and our guide to the future."

"Successful businesses have learned an important lesson: The United States is the most multicultural nation of all."

"One key value underlies many of the others—individualism. This term means that we recognize and celebrate the fact that all people are different, have individual rights as specified in the U.S. Constitution, and should be judged by their individual traits—including what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called 'the content of their character'—rather than by their race or gender. Further, whatever pay and other rewards people receive should reflect individual ability and individual effort, again, regardless of race or gender. This view of our way of life might be called our nation's individualistic cultural narrative. In recent decades, however, a counterpoint, a competing cultural narrative, has emerged in U.S. culture. This version emphasizes not a competitive, individualistic culture but a culture based on hierarchy in which major categories of the population—defined by race, class, and gender—are sharply unequal. According to this vision of our society—which might be called the categorical cultural narrative, often referred to as group-identity narrative, the goal of society should not be providing individuals with rights and equal opportunity but ensuring that all categories of people have 'equity,' or parity, in terms of social standing."

Chapter 4: Society
This is the unique chapter that presents an introduction to the classic theorists Marx, Weber, and Durkheim as well as the U.S. theorist Gerhard Lenski. The updated Power of Society figure has new data showing how level of education is a good predictor of people's access to the internet. In the digital course, a pair of interactive global maps invites students to assess the link between the share of

households with a personal computer and nations' level of economic development. There are updates on three high-tech corporations that have become the largest listed on the S&P stock exchange. A new discussion of modern, rational corporations focuses on the positive and negative qualities of Amazon.

In this revised chapter, 65 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Agrarian nobles and serfs, for all their differences, were bound together by traditions and mutual obligations. Industrial capitalism dissolved those ties so that loyalty and honor were replaced by 'naked self-interest.' Because the proletarians had no personal ties to the capitalists, Marx saw no reason for them to put up with their oppression."

"In 1914, Henry Ford paid his factory workers $5 for an eight-hour day, which, accounting for inflation, would be about $140 today, or $17.50 an hour. Walmart's average hourly pay is about $15; Amazon pays warehouse workers about $18 an hour. Do these numbers suggest any improvement in the lives of workers over the last century? Why or why not?"

"Weber considered industrial capitalism highly rational because capitalists try to make money in the most efficient way. Marx, however, thought capitalism irrational because it fails to meet the basic needs of most of the people."

"As the decades passed, later generations of Calvinists lost much of their early religious enthusiasm. But their drive for success and personal discipline remained, and what started out as a religious ethic was gradually transformed into a work ethic. In this sense, Weber considered industrial capitalism to be a 'disenchanted' religion, with wealth now valued not as a sign of salvation but for its own sake. This transformation is seen in the fact that the practice of 'accounting,' which to early Calvinists meant 'accounting to God for their actions' by keeping a daily record of their moral deeds, gradually came to mean simply keeping track of money."

"Why is it that rock stars—from Del Shannon, Elvis Presley, Janis Joplin, and Jim Morrison to Jimi Hendrix, Keith Moon, Kurt Cobain, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston, Prince, and Keith Emerson—seem so prone to self-destruction? Durkheim had the answer long before the invention of the electric guitar: Now, as back then, the highest suicide rates are found among categories of people with the lowest level of societal integration. In short, the enormous freedom of the young, rich, and famous carries a high price in terms of the risk of suicide."

"Does Weber's model of bureaucratic efficiency still apply to the workplace in the twenty-first century? Consider Amazon, a company widely viewed as one of the great success stories of its time. There is little doubt that Amazon is efficient at getting your purchase to your door—sometimes the very next day. Still, what is efficient for the company is not always good for the company's 1 million employees. As one analysis points out, warehouse workers who fill orders are under great pressure to keep moving quickly, and computers carefully track their performance. Even bathroom breaks are timed and rigidly limited."

Chapter 5: Socialization
Freud, Piaget, Kohlberg, Gilligan, G. H. Mead, and Erikson—all the major theorists concerned with human development are included here. The updated Power of Society figure links level of schooling to time spent viewing television. The activism of Rosa Parks is used to illustrate Kohlberg's levels of moral development. There is expanded discussion of George Herbert Mead's theory of the emergence of self. There is also expanded discussion of the causes of greater political polarization in the United States.

A pair of updated, interactive maps invites students to explore the link between the multiracial share of the population and a second demographic variable—the share of the population over age sixty-five. Another pair of updated, interactive global maps invites students to discover the link between the extent of child labor and a nation's level of economic development. A pair of updated, interactive national maps allows students to investigate the location of counties with the greatest share of multiracial people and contrast that pattern to the distribution of counties with the largest share of people over the age of sixty-five.

In this revised chapter, 79 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Without denying the importance of nature, then, we can correctly say that nurture matters more in shaping human behavior. In short, as human beings, *nurture is our nature*."

"A dog responds to *what you do*; a human responds to *what you have in mind* as you do it. You can train a dog to go to the hallway and bring back an umbrella, which is a handy trick on a rainy day. But because the dog doesn't understand intention, if the dog cannot find the umbrella, a canine is incapable of the *human* response: to look for a raincoat instead."

Chapter 6: Social Interaction in Everyday Life
This chapter applies the sociological perspective to status, role, and other familiar patterns of life, describing how reality is constructed in social interaction, how body language can indicate deception, how people express emotion, the importance of gender, and the social significance of humor. The updated, interactive Power of Society figure allows students to see how age affects the extent of social networking. A pair of interactive global maps invites students to explore the link between women's employment and nations' level of economic development.

There is new discussion of differences between women and men in how they use language on the job. There is an updated and greatly expanded discussion of humor, which

includes a new section titled "Humor: Funny, Sick, or Offensive?" exploring the challenge of using humor in an age of cancel culture.

In this revised chapter, 65 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Typically, the English language treats whatever has greater value, force, or significance as masculine. For instance, the word *virtuous,* meaning 'morally worthy' or 'excellent,' comes from the Latin word *vir,* meaning 'man.' On the other hand, the adjective *hysterical,* meaning 'emotionally out of control,' comes from the Greek word *hystera,* meaning 'uterus.'"

"Humor is all about pushing beyond cultural boundaries. For this reason, as we take lightly conventions that guide everyday life, humor becomes a subversive act. The Greek roots of the word 'comedy' (*komas* and *oide*) mean 'song of the rebel.' Because jokes involve breaking the rules by presenting unconventional realities, humor often walks a fine line between what is funny and what someone may deem to be sick or offensive."

Chapter 7: Mass Media and Social Media: With an Early Look at Artificial Intelligence
This groundbreaking chapter on social media has been expanded to include analysis of artificial intelligence, beginning with a new chapter-opening story. The updated Power of Society figure shows how gender shapes our use of Pinterest and other social media sites. A pair of updated and interactive global maps invites students to explore the link between level of internet access and nations' level of economic development.

There is updated and expanded discussion of media bias and how media promote political polarization. There are new data and expanded discussion of gender and film, including the share of 2023 films passing the Bechdel gender test and how the public views social media. Two important sections have been updated: "Social Media, Anxiety, and Depression" and "The Politics of Social Media."

Discussion of artificial intelligence includes how this technology is already changing our way of life, including AI's effects on the workplace, traffic safety, crime and crime control, international conflict and cyber-attacks, and racial bias. Discussion focuses on not only AI's promise but also the dangers it poses.

Because this revised chapter deals with a rapidly evolving topic, 85 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"There are almost 15 billion smartphones in the world—about twice the number of people on the planet."

"The typical person in the United States spends more waking time looking at screens than any other activity, including sleeping."

"At the present rate, for a typical member of our society, half a lifetime will be spent looking at screens."

"Most U.S. adults are uneasy with artificial intelligence making employment decisions devoid of any 'human' feelings. At the same time, not all 'human feelings' are desirable. A majority of people also think that AI may be helpful when it comes to making evaluations that are free of racial or gender bias. AI can be created to advance any particular agenda."

Chapter 8: Groups and Organizations
This chapter provides a comprehensive survey of types of social groups and types of group leadership and analyzes the operation of formal organizations. The updated Power of Society figure shows that the higher a person's social standing, the greater the opportunity to join professional associations. There is an expanded discussion of "followers," including the concept of "intelligent disobedience." There is expanded analysis of how race, class, gender, and nonbinary identity affect group dynamics, along with new content on how organizations respond to the challenge of inclusion.

There is discussion explaining how the pandemic weakened social groups and altered organizational operation. The discussion of groupthink has been updated to include the effects of "cancel culture." Examples of organization behavior have been updated, illustrated by the Amazon corporation.

In this revised chapter, 86 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"In a secondary relationship, therefore, we ask the question 'How are you?' without expecting a truthful answer."

"If two members of a triad were to develop a romantic interest in each other, they would come to understand the meaning of the old saying, 'Two's company, three's a crowd.'"

"The EZPass in your car is a wonderful convenience. Once again, however, this device creates an electronic record of when and where you travel."

Chapter 9: Sexuality and Society
This chapter provides a broad discussion of the biological and social dimensions of human sexuality, including sexual orientation, transgender, sexual attitudes in the United States, controversies involving sexuality, as well as theoretical and political analysis. The updated, interactive Power of Society figure tracks the steady increase in support for same-sex marriage leading to legalization in 2015. Completing the predictive graphing component of this exercise, students may be surprised to learn that public support for same-sex marriage was small as recently as thirty years ago.

The discussion of transgender and cisgender identity has been updated and expanded and now includes the latest laws affecting the LGBTQ+ community. There is a new

discussion of the controversy over transgender women participating in women's sports. A pair of interactive national maps invites students to discover the link between states banning transgender women from women's sports and how the states voted in the 2024 election. A new pair of national maps shows the share of people identifying as LGBT in each state, inviting students to discover how this variable is related to the way the state voted in the 2024 presidential election. Another new pair of national maps provides an assessment of each state's support for LGBTQ+ people, with a companion map showing the state vote in 2024. An updated pair of interactive global maps invites students to analyze the link between access to legal abortion and a nation's level of economic development.

There are updates on the extent of premarital sex, extramarital sex, the number of lifetime opposite-sex partners for women and men in the United States, the share of older people who are sexually active, and the extent of contraceptive use in nations around the world. There are also new data on the number of LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. population. The latest research by geneticists helps explain the complex origins of sexual orientation, and the chapter provides the latest data on access to legal abortion in the United States and around the world.

In this revised chapter, 81 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"The pursuit of social equality often involves bathrooms or, more precisely, who is permitted to use which ones. For decades, for example, Black people were forbidden from using bathrooms reserved for White people. Similarly, it was not many years ago that the federal government provided women serving in Congress with a bathroom reserved for 'ladies.' Today, the issue revolves around gender—or, more specifically, the right of people to decide sexual identity for themselves and use a restroom of their choice."

"In 2017, California became the first state to allow a third gender category (F, M, or X), and half the states now allow people to request amending their birth certificate in this way."

"People who identify as pansexual may experience changing patterns of attraction over time. Clearly, there is overlap between bisexuality and pansexuality. Such cases point out that we should not infer a person's sexual orientation based on someone's current romantic partner."

"Transgender is not the same as sexual orientation, which is discussed later in this chapter. Transgender people may think of themselves as gay or lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual, asexual, pansexual, some combination of these categories, or in entirely different terms. Some transgender people are gender conforming—that is, appearing and acting in conventional feminine or masculine ways—and some are gender nonconforming. In the same way, gender-nonconforming people may or may not identify as transgender."

"In global perspective, just fifty-seven of the world's (195) nations permit a woman to obtain an abortion on request (that is, for any reason)."

Chapter 10: Deviance

The updated Power of Society figure reveals racial bias in our society's application of drug laws. Interactives include an updated pair of global maps inviting students to explore the link between use of the death penalty and nations' level of economic development.

The latest data are provided for crime rates and the size of the U.S. prison population in the United States. Many examples illustrate how variable norms and laws are across the United States. There are updates concerning drug laws; the recent increase in crime and arrest statistics; the extent of organized crime, corporate crime, and hate crime; the expansion of the police policy of de-escalation; and the nation's high level of gun violence. A new national map shows how state spending on police protection varies across the United States. Both theoretical and political analyses provide a deeper understanding of issues and policies involving crime and law enforcement.

In this revised chapter, 72 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Recently, the owners of Purdue Pharma, maker of OxyContin, settled charges of contributing to the overdose deaths of hundreds of thousands of people by paying a fine and having the company (not the leadership) plead guilty to three felony charges. As a result, not one of the owners or top executives of the corporation spent a single day in jail."

"Almost everyone carries a certain level of conscious and unconscious prejudice. Perceptions related to both class and race affect how we respond to others, including the way employers evaluate candidates for jobs, how teachers punish students who misbehave in school, and how police engage with citizens on the streets."

"Nations also differ in gun control policy. Japan, for example, bans handguns and tightly regulates possession of rifles and shotguns. As a result, the number of civilian firearms, about 300,000, represents just one firearm for every 400 Japanese people. In the United States, the number of civilian firearms, more than 400 million, means that there are almost 500 firearms for every 400 people in the United States."

"In 2023, the Chicago urban area had as many firearm murders as all of Canada."

Chapter 11: Social Stratification

This, the first of three chapters on social stratification, examines social hierarchy throughout history and in global perspective. The interactive and updated Power of Society figure confirms the importance of class by exposing substantial differences in life expectancy for a high-income county and a low-income county in northern Florida. Interactive global maps reveal the level of economic inequality in nations around the world in relation

to their levels of economic development, inviting students to explore the link between these two variables. There are updates on life within a low-income community in South Africa, the caste system of India, changes to the royal family in Britain, the state of women in Japan's corporate economy, how China's increasing economic power is changing social inequality in that nation, and the level of economic inequality in selected countries of the world. The interactive global map has been updated to show the latest Gini coefficients for all nations.

In this revised chapter, 72 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"[On the *Titanic*] more than 60 percent of people holding first-class tickets were saved because they were on the upper decks, where warnings were sounded first and lifeboats were accessible. Only 36 percent of the second-class passengers survived, and of the third-class passengers on the lower decks, only 24 percent escaped drowning. On board the *Titanic*, class turned out to mean much more than the quality of accommodations—it was a matter of life or death."

"Did a higher percentage of the first-class passengers on the *Titanic* survive because they were better swimmers than second- and third-class passengers? No. They did better because of their privileged position on the ship, which gave them first access to the lifeboats."

"The rising pay of CEOs is harmful to our society by contributing to increasing economic inequality. In 1965, the ratio of CEO pay to earnings of a typical worker was 20 to 1. By 1989 that ratio had reached 58 to 1. By 2020, the ratio stood at 299 to 1."

"Tension between the caste-like royal life and the class-like life common to celebrities in the United States no doubt contributed to the (Meghan and Harry) Sussex family moving to California."

Chapter 12: Social Class in the United States

This, the second of three stratification chapters, focuses on economic and social inequality in the United States. The interactive and updated Power of Society figure shows how various categories of people have very different risks of experiencing poverty. The predictive graphing exercise allows students to compare their assessment of those odds against results of sociological research. In the digital version, a pair of interactive national maps invites students to examine patterns of household income and poverty levels. The revised chapter now includes transgender people in several discussions. Updates include all the latest data on inequality of income and wealth, profiling the economic standing of people at all levels of our society as well as patterns of social mobility. The latest research guides public assessment of occupational prestige. Find the latest data on educational achievement and economic resources, analyzed by race, ethnicity, and gender.

There is new and expanded assessment of the reality of the American dream, including the shares of rich people who inherited or earned their wealth. The analysis of poverty in the United States has also been updated with the latest statistics, and the digital version now provides an interactive national map of poverty rates for all counties across the country, inviting students to examine poverty rates in their local community. The wealthiest person in the world is identified (you know …). The latest data inform discussion of social mobility over time for millennials. Data on homelessness are the latest available. A major new section provides political analysis of social stratification from various positions on the political spectrum, helping students to link what they learn to ongoing political debate.

In this revised chapter, 87 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"The top 1 percent of families have as much wealth as the entire U.S. middle class."

"The most selective colleges and universities enroll more students from families with income in the top 1 percent in terms of income than from families in the lowest 60 percent."

"If one takes the total wealth of all U.S. families and divides by the number of families, then the average (mean) family's wealth comes out to be just above $1 million. Because the mean is pulled way up by the relatively few extremely families, however, this number is misleading. A better measure of wealth is the median, which is the amount that divides all families in half, with half above this number and half below. In 2023, the median family wealth was $100,800. For households, the median wealth was $80,610."

"*Forbes* magazine profiled the richest 400 people in the country, individuals who were worth at least $2.9 billion and as much as $251 billion, in the case of Elon Musk who, in early 2024, was the richest person in the world."

"All five of the richest people in the world control high-tech corporations."

"About two-thirds of the richest people in the country are at least mostly self-made. A number of them created large tech companies, and much of their wealth is invested in the companies they created."

"Inequality in income makes a real difference in people's lives: 73 percent of non-Hispanic White families own their homes compared to 45 percent of non-Hispanic Black families."

"Over time, such income differences build into a huge wealth gap. The government reports that the median wealth is $24,520 for non-Hispanic Black households, $52,190 for Hispanic households, and $250,400 for non-Hispanic White households."

"Fully half of the people who were not registered to vote in the recent election had an annual income under $20,000."

Chapter 13: Global Stratification

This, the third of three stratification chapters, expands the analysis of social hierarchy to include the entire world. The updated Power of Society figure presents dramatic differences in survival rates for those born in low- and high-income nations. The predictive graphing exercise allows students to assess the link between wealth and health and compare their results to research findings. In the digital version, a pair of interactive global maps shows the level of economic development for all nations and the survival rate of the population to age sixty-five; comparison invites students to discover the link between these two variables. There is an updated list of the number of high-income, middle-income, and low-income nations and of the world's richest people, revealing that the four of the five richest people in the world live in the United States and each has more than $200 billion in wealth so that, together, these people have wealth equaling the total economic output of half the world's countries.

All data on the distribution of global income and wealth, child poverty, quality of life, and global slavery are the latest available. There is also an updated profile of wealth and well-being for global nations and updated theoretical and political analysis of global stratification.

In this revised chapter, 72 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Four of the world's top five richest people—Elon Musk (Tesla), Larry Ellison (Oracle), Jeff Bezos (Amazon), and Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook)—live in the United States, and *each* of these men is worth over $200 billion, an amount that exceeds the economic output of half the world's *countries*."

"Of all enslaved people, 71 percent (29 million) are women and girls."

Chapter 14: Gender Stratification

This chapter provides a broad analysis of the role of gender in social stratification in the United States and throughout the world. The updated Power of Society figure provides a fresh look at how gender shapes who provides caretaking for children in the United States. A pair of updated, interactive maps contrasts women's social standing compared to that of men and also shows nations' level of economic development, which invites students to assess the link between these two variables. A pair of interactive national maps invites students to discover the link between the number of women in state government across the United States and which candidate carried the state in the 2024 presidential election.

The latest data inform an analysis of the U.S. jobs employing the highest share of women. The listing of historic "firsts" for women now includes the makeup of the 119th Congress, which convened in 2025, as well as a record number of women serving as state governors. Revision updates include the latest data on unemployment; the pay disparity for women and men starring in film; how gender interacts with work, pay, and housework; and how gender shapes education and the U.S. military. A new discussion provides political analysis of gender stratification from different positions on the political spectrum.

In this revised chapter, 80 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"According to the United Nations' Gender Inequality Index, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden provide women with the highest social standing relative to that of men; by contrast, women in Chad, Papua New Guinea, and Yemen have the lowest social standing compared with men. Of the world's 195 nations, the United Nations ranks the United States forty-seventh in terms of gender equality."

"Just forty-one (or 8.2 percent) of the S&P 500 companies in the United States have a woman as their chief executive officer (CEO), and just 32 percent of the seats on corporate boards of directors are held by women."

"High-tech companies are cutting edge, right? Therefore, we would expect them to lead the way in terms of gender equality. Such is not the case, however. Generally speaking, about one-third of the people working at companies including Google, Microsoft, and Facebook are women."

Chapter 15: Race and Ethnicity

This chapter provides a comprehensive survey of the history and current social standing of people in major racial and ethnic categories of the population and discusses prejudice, discrimination, and other related concepts. The digital version offers a pair of updated, interactive national maps that identifies counties where minority categories make up most of the population and a companion map that invites students to explore the link between this variable and the county's level of income. In all, this chapter contains twelve national maps showing patterns involving race and ethnicity across the United States.

There is expanded attention to police violence against Black people, new discussion of how race and ethnicity shaped the results of the 2024 presidential election, and the most recent data on the population size and social standing of various categories of the U.S. population. Updates focus on the coming minority majority in the United States, how U.S. families and individuals are becoming more blended in terms of race and ethnicity, political analysis of "identity politics," how the major political parties discuss racial and ethnic stratification, and the extent of support from voters in various racial and ethnic categories for the major political parties.

The latest available data are used in discussion of the size and social standing of all racial and ethnic categories of the U.S. population. In this revised chapter, 82 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Race may be real, but it is not based on genes."

"Yes, the country is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. But so are U.S. *families*. And the share of *people* who are multiracial is also rapidly increasing. Rather than sharpening the lines that divide this nation, increasing diversity is likely to blur them."

"[In 2024], if only minority categories of the U.S. population had voted, Democratic candidates would have won in a historic landslide…. If only non-Hispanic, White people had voted, Republican candidates would have won in a historic landslide."

Chapter 16: Aging and Later Life

The average age of the U.S. population is going up, which means an increasing share of people in later life. The updated and interactive Power of Society figure provides a recent measure of the care provided by women and men to older family members. The predictive graphing exercise allows students to assess their own attitudes about gender and caregiving against results of research. A new chapter-opening story explains that most government leaders are older adults, not just in the United States but in most nations. A pair of interactive national maps presents the elderly share of the population for all counties of the United States and invites students to link this variable to levels of residential stability. A pair of global maps presents life expectancy for all nations and invites students to link this variable to nations' level of economic development.

There are new data on the share of the U.S. population over the age of sixty-five, the increasing median age of the U.S. population, self-assessment of health by older people, life expectancy in the United States and around the world, living arrangements for older adults, poverty in the older and younger populations, and how income and poverty rates change across the life cycle. The latest state laws concerning physician-assisted suicide are provided.

There is a new personal reflection on growing older by the author, and a major new section providing political analysis of aging. In this revised chapter, 77 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:

"The qualities of mind and spirit—especially the capacity to give and receive love—become more of the focus with advancing age. In this sense, when it comes to nurturing our inner qualities, old age can become the prime of life. Just as we are most capable of passionate physical relationships in our youth, there is plenty of evidence that we are able to experience our deepest love and greatest wisdom in old age."

"The risk of social isolation in old age is especially high among categories of people—including LGBTQ+ people—who have experienced marginalization over the life course."

"For people in heterosexual relationships, the problem of social isolation falls more heavily on women because they typically outlive their partners. Table 16–1 shows that 70 percent of men aged sixty-five and over live with spouses or partners, but only 50 percent of older women do. In addition, 30 percent of older women (especially those aged seventy-five and older) live alone, compared to 20 percent of older men."

Chapter 17: The Economy and Work

This chapter provides a survey of the operation of the economy from both historical and cross-national perspectives. The updated, interactive Power of Society figure shows how race and ethnicity affect the types of jobs people have. The digital version's interactive global maps invite students to see how economic development changes the type of work people do. The digital version's national maps invite students to explore the link between a state's policy toward unions and how that state voted in the 2024 presidential election. All economic metrics are the most recent data available.

There is expanded discussion of emerging high-tech mega-businesses, including Amazon, Tesla, Uber, and Lyft, and also more discussion of artificial intelligence in the workplace. Updates include the latest data on unemployment, a recent surge in the strength of labor unions, the increasing share of small businesses owned by women, the size of the three sectors of the U.S. economy, the state of labor unions in the United States and around the world, the rate of self-employment for women and men, levels of unemployment (including 2024 data) for various categories of the population, and the size and dominance of the corporate economy. A major new section explores the consequences for the economy of automation, computer technology, and artificial intelligence. There is also expanded discussion of remote work and recent efforts to encourage workers to return to the office. Political analysis of economic systems includes the latest survey data showing the extent of public support for capitalism and socialism.

In this heavily revised and updated chapter, 97 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:

"Industrial technology drew workers into factories located near power sources, but computer technology allows people to work almost anywhere. Laptop and wireless computers and smartphones now turn the home, a car, or even an airplane into a 'virtual office.' Look at how readily millions of workers relocated to their own homes during the pandemic. What this transition means for everyday life is that new information technology blurs the line between our lives at work and at home."

"Automation—especially when linked to computer-based artificial intelligence (AI)—will intensify the replacement of human workers by machines, including workers who perform not factory work but jobs involving creativity. Estimates indicate that perhaps 20 percent of workers in the United States are doing jobs likely to be replaced by AI."

"Many analysts now see a new trend of *increasing* union power. In part, this trend is fueled by a steady increase in economic inequality. In addition, the use of computer technology to monitor employee behavior has caused workers at Amazon and other corporations to push back through collective organization."

Chapter 18: Politics and Government

This chapter offers an overview of political systems and the operation of the federal government. This chapter offers full discussion of the 2024 presidential election. An updated chapter-opening story provides 2024 data showing trust in the federal government among U.S. adults reaching a historic low. A pair of updated, interactive global maps presents the level of freedom in nations around the world along with their level of economic development, inviting students to assess the link between these two variables. A new national map shows the outcome of the 2024 presidential vote for all 3,155 counties in the United States, allowing students to identify regional patterns and also to zoom in and examine their local community.

A major new discussion explains the political realignment that played out in the 2024 presidential election. There is expanded and updated discussion of political polarization in the United States. There are updates on the extent of freedom in the world, the size of government, how the U.S. population is distributed across the political spectrum, political party identification among U.S. adults, the political leanings of first-year college students, voting by people convicted of felonies, a new record for spending in the 2024 political campaigns, the share of women in the military and among officers in all branches of the military, how war creates millions of refugees, the extent of war and terrorism in the world, the extent of voter apathy in 2024, and the causes and consequences of political polarization. A new Seeing Sociology in Everyday Life box explores the rural-urban divide in the outcome of the 2024 presidential election.

In this revised chapter, 91 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:

"As children, most of us can remember challenging a parent's demand by asking 'Why?' only to hear the response 'Because I said so!' Answering this way, the parent makes clear that the demand is not open to debate; to respond otherwise would ignore the parent's traditional authority over the child and put the two on an equal footing."

"Charismatic leaders have surfaced throughout history, using their personal skills to turn an audience into followers. Without relying on tradition or established law, they often make their own rules and challenge the status quo, transforming the society around them. This fact also explains why charismatics are highly controversial and why few of them die of old age."

"Donald Trump won the presidency in 2024 with strong support from working people. At the same time, the new cabinet is anything but ordinary. Estimates are that the average personal wealth of this distinguished group is roughly $600 million, several times greater than the $140 million wealth typical of cabinet members in the previous Biden administration."

"In the past, the Democratic party has enjoyed widespread support among working people and those without a college degree. Yet this pattern did not hold in 2024. Most working people, especially men without a college degree, supported Republican Donald Trump."

"Given the extent of economic inequality in the United States and other nations that call themselves 'democratic,' the 'voice of the people' is likely to have an upper-class accent."

"Higher-income people tend to lean right on the political spectrum because larger government means higher taxes, which largely fall on them. But the link between income and political party is a bit more complex: Most people with *very* high income (think Hollywood celebrities and those at the top of high-technology corporations) are Democrats. A *Forbes* study found that a large majority of the richest 400 people in the country are Democrats."

Chapter 19: Families

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of families and family life in the United States, including both historical and global comparisons. A new Power of Society figure, interactive in the digital version, shows that U.S. adults have greater acceptance of some types of families than others. A pair of interactive global maps presents same-sex marriage laws for all the world's nations and shows the increasing number of countries that recognize legal same-sex marriage. A companion map indicates nations' level of economic development, inviting students to assess the link between these two variables. A pair of new national maps shows that a majority of states outlawed interracial marriage in 1947 and identifies the seventeen states that still had such laws in 1966, a year before all such laws were declared to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

There are updates on the number of U.S. households, the declining share that meets the Census Bureau definition of "families," the share of U.S. children born to couples who are married, the increasing age at first marriage, and the share of the U.S. population marrying, divorcing, living alone, cohabitating, and reporting sexual infidelity to a spouse. There are new data on the cost of raising children in the United States for people at various class levels, the share of young adults living in the home of a parent, the increasing share of middle-aged people providing elder care, and the extent of family violence.

There is greatly expanded discussion of the expansion of multiracial and multiethnic families in the United States. A new major section provides political analysis of families and family life from various positions on the political spectrum.

In this heavily revised chapter, 94 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"More than half of all people (54 percent of men and 59 percent of women) between fifteen and forty-nine years of age have cohabited at some point. In fact, the share of U.S. adults who have lived with a romantic partner is now larger than the share who have ever been married."

"The typical family spends about $25,000 a year to raise a child, which amounts to about $300,000 by the time the child reaches the age of eighteen. Of course, this amount varies according to family income—from about $200,000 for a lower-income family to more than $500,000 for a high-income family."

"By 2020, for the first time since the Great Depression in the 1930s, a slight majority of young adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty-nine were living with one or both parents."

"The stay-at-home dad represents no more than 1 percent of fathers with young children."

"The line between family life and working life is likely to become weaker. The share of people in the labor force who work from home has increased to roughly one-third. In addition, more businesses are moving toward having people come to the office for only part of the working week. This means the home will become more of a workplace and people will have to learn how to balance the responsibilities of employment with the demands of family life."

"[Among older adults] many couples decide that they no longer wish to remain married. More than one-third of all divorces in the United States involves people over the age of fifty—triple the share in 1990."

Chapter 20: Religion
This revised chapter reviews sociological analysis of religion including types of religious organizations, the size and character of major world religions, and recent trends in religious affiliation and belief. The updated Power of Society figure interactive in the digital version, presents political attitudes of people affiliated with various religious organizations in the United States. The digital version offers a pair of interactive national maps that shows the extent of religious affiliation across the United States; a companion map shows the share of the population over the age of sixty-five for the same counties, inviting students to assess the link between religious affiliation and age. Global maps show the distribution of all global religions in the nations of the world.

There are updates on the number of nations with an official religion, as well as which religion is most often recognized in this way; levels of religiosity for various nations; the estimated number of cults globally; religious affiliation and various measures of religiosity for the U.S. population; the increasing share of people claiming no religious affiliation; how religiosity and religious affiliation are linked to race, class, and gender; and a religious profile of first-year college students in the United States. There is expanded and updated discussion of the beliefs of people in the United States with no religious affiliation ("nones").

In this heavily revised chapter, 90 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Protestants had the largest share of conservatives (47 percent) and the smallest share of liberals (20 percent). Jews had the smallest share of conservatives (14 percent) and the largest share of liberals (64 percent). It appears that religious preference is linked not only to how people think about spiritual issues, but to how they think about everything."

"Surveys of religious affiliation show that *no affiliation* is the category showing the largest increase over time."

"The share of people who identify with Christianity continues to decline. The loss of membership is most pronounced for established, mainline churches, including Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Catholics. The decline in membership among more conservative religious organizations, including the Mormons, Seventh-Day Adventists, and Christian sects, has been less pronounced. Overall, the U.S. population is becoming less religious; among those who remain religious, however, a larger share is affiliated with conservative organizations generally characterized as 'fundamentalist.' In short, the U.S. population is becoming less religious but also more intensely religious at the same time."

"In general, the share of 'nones' in the population is higher among people who are younger. While just 27 percent of baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) say they have no religious affiliation, 39 percent of Generation Z (born between 1997 and 2012) say the same. 'Nones' are more concentrated in some states. Their share of the population is highest in the Pacific Northwest—including Washington and Oregon—as well as in Hawaii, Colorado, and the northeastern states of Vermont and New Hampshire."

Chapter 21: Education
This revised chapter describes the development of formal schooling in the United States and describes the extent of schooling from a global perspective. In addition, the chapter assesses the effectiveness of public education and discusses educational problems and controversies. The updated Power of Society figure interactive shows the strong correlation between race and ethnicity and the share of young people enrolled in college. Other updated interactives include a pair of global maps showing levels of illiteracy for countries around the world and inviting students to discover the link between illiteracy and nations' level of economic development. A pair of national maps invites students to explore the link between teachers' average salaries for each state and how the state voted in the 2024 presidential election. The lessons of the pandemic are discussed, focusing on the closing of schools and consequences for students. Additional controversies include the teacher shortage, a dramatic increase in homeschooling, inequality in schooling, violence in school, a decline in college enrollment, and an increase in online

learning. A new Controversy & Debate box examines the disruptive effect of cell phones on school life.

All educational statistics are the latest available. There are updates on illiteracy around the world; educational achievement in the United States; the share of U.S. students attending private, parochial, and public schools; the link between family income and college enrollment; the average lifetime earnings for people with varying levels of schooling; the increasing importance of community colleges, especially to minority communities; and rates of dropping out by ethnicity and race.

In this revised chapter, 85 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Beginning in the spring of 2020, the pandemic effectively shut down schools across the United States, keeping children at home, separating them from their teachers and also from their friends. The closing lasted for up to two years. Some critics point out that closing schools did not provide much health benefit to young people, who were less affected by the pandemic than older people. At the same time, the in-class learning lost during school closures may never be made up. Research now confirms that examinations in mathematics and science show that, between 2019 and 2024, the average score of U.S. fourth-graders declined by 18 points; eighth-graders showed a 27-point decline."

"In 2000, the nation ranked second in the world (behind Norway) in the share of young adults with a college degree. By 2022, however, the United States had slipped to fifteenth place out of forty-five high-income nations. The United States has not gone backward; other nations have expanded education faster than we have. Analysts point to the high cost of higher education in the United States, along with the increasing number of people—especially young men—who think that college is not worth the time, money, and effort."

"Ivy League universities, such as Princeton, enroll more students from the richest 1 percent of U.S. families than students from the bottom 60 percent of families."

Chapter 22: Health and Medicine
This revised chapter surveys the state of health in the United States and around the world, providing both theoretical and political analysis. The updated Power of Society figure, interactive in tracks increasing obesity rates in the U.S. population by race and ethnicity. The digital version presents a pair of updated, interactive national maps that shows life expectancy for all counties across the United States, allowing students to see longevity data for their local community. A companion map indicates median household income for all counties, inviting students to assess the relationship between these two variables. A second set of national maps presents obesity data for 1996 and also 2023, inviting students to see both the overall change and also to note regional patterns. A pair of updated, interactive global maps shows the share of HIV infections around the world and includes a companion map indicating nations' level of economic development, inviting students to assess the relationship between these two variables. A new Seeing Sociology in Everyday Life box presents analysis of the obesity crisis. All health data are the latest available, and most are presented according to age, race, class, and gender.

In this revised chapter, 87 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"More than 480,000 people in the United States die prematurely each year as a direct result of cigarette smoking, a figure that exceeds the death toll from obesity (about 300,000 a year) and the death toll from alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, suicide, automobile accidents, and AIDS combined."

"In the last thirty years, the share of Americans who are clinically obese increased from 22 percent to 42 percent."

"Doctors call it 'coronary-prone behavior.' Psychologists call it the 'Type A personality.' Sociologists recognize it as our culture's concept of masculinity."

"Beginning in the 1990s, the United States has experienced a dramatic increase in deaths linked to opioid drugs. By 2011, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first described this situation as an 'epidemic,' a second wave of deaths linked to the synthetic opioid fentanyl and an expansion of heroin use by people already addicted to painkillers pushed the death toll even higher. Overdose deaths peaked in 2021, with more than 105,000 fatalities during that year. Such a number made opioids the leading cause of death among all people under the age of fifty-five."

"In terms of infant mortality (the odds that an infant will die during the first year of life), the United States is ranked only fifty-fourth among global nations, well below most European countries. The United States also has the highest rate of maternal death of all high-income countries. In short, researchers report that, despite spending more money per person than other high-income countries, U.S. society provides newborns and their mothers with higher rates of disease and death. Finally, in terms of life expectancy, the United States also ranks well below most other high-income countries."

Chapter 23: Population, Urbanization, and Environment
This revised chapter provides both theoretical and political analysis of three related topics—population size, level of urbanization, and the quality of the natural environment. The updated Power of Society figure, interactive, shows that the level of public concern about climate change varies from nation to nation around the world. Other interactives include a pair of global maps showing rates of population increase for all nations; the companion map invites students to discover how population increase is linked to nations' level of economic development. A pair of interactive national maps shows population change between 2010 and 2020 for all

counties in the United States; the companion map, showing the share of people over the age of sixty-five, invites students to see how the two variables are related.

There is a new discussion of declining fertility throughout the world and its implications for social life in the final decades of this century. All demographic data are the latest available. There is updated discussion of climate change policy under both the Biden and Trump administrations. The revision has the latest data showing that people of color are a majority of the population in sixty-five of the nation's 100 largest cities. Analysis of demographic change to rural areas in the United States has been expanded and updated.

There is a new discussion of how politics shapes people's understanding of environmental issues and their solution. All the data on population, urbanization, and environmental issues are the latest available.

In this revised chapter, 83 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Remember that differences exist among various categories of people. For example, Black people, with nearly three times the burden of poverty as White people, have an infant mortality rate of 11.1—more than twice the White rate of 4.4."

"Life expectancy in North America remains high compared to low-income regions of the world. However, for the first time in many decades, life expectancy in the United States declined, from 76.1 years for males and 81.1 years for females in 2017. This decline reflects increasing obesity, the opioid epidemic, and the pandemic."

"A change is coming. This change, which is already evident, involves fertility—or, more precisely, a *decline* in fertility. For a society to maintain a steady level of population, women must have an average of 2.1 live births during their lifetime, a point demographers term **zero population growth**, *the rate of reproduction that maintains population at a steady level*. In high-income nations, the average is already below this level—fertility has declined to 1.6 births per woman in the United States, the lowest on record. In the nations of Europe, the number is 1.5 births per woman, and in China and other nations in East Asia, the number is just 1.2. Even in India, which recently surpassed China as the world's most populous country, the average number of births per woman is now 2.0. In Latin America, which, in the past, was another high-increase region of the world, the number of births per woman is down to 1.9. Only in Africa and the Middle East is the number of births per woman above the replacement level."

"In 2023, about half of all rural counties in the United States gained population. This trend has been driven by outward migration from central cities and also by the increasing number of people working remotely."

"History has shown that women who are free to decide if, when, and where to marry; who bear children as a matter of choice; and who have access to education and to good jobs will limit their own fertility."

"The term 'ghetto' (from the Italian *borghetto,* meaning 'outside the city walls') was first used in the early sixteenth century to describe the neighborhood in which the Jews of Venice were segregated."

Chapter 24: Collective Behavior and Social Movements
This revised chapter explores wide-ranging patterns sociologists call "collective behavior." The updated Power of Society figure begins with new data showing, among selected nations, the share of people who report participating in a lawful, peaceful demonstration. There is a new national map showing which states have and have not enacted a minimum wage of at least $15 per hour. A companion map showing how states voted in the 2024 presidential election invites discovery of how politics drives policy. Updated examples familiar to students are used throughout the chapter. Discussion of rumor has been expanded to include artificial intelligence. Other updates range from the laws regulating cell phone use in automobiles to the extent of activism among today's college students and how people envision the state of the nation in 2050.

In this revised chapter, 59 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Such a situation took place in 2021 at the Astroworld Music Festival in Houston as 50,000 people suddenly surged forward against the stage, crushing and knocking people to the ground, resulting in eight deaths and hundreds of injuries. The effect of this panic was amplified by social media, with videos of the tragedy receiving 2.4 billion views."

"Media images of George Floyd helped mobilize people to support efforts to reform the culture and practices of police departments. In the same way, images of the Abundant Life Christian School in Madison, Wisconsin, where one student and one teacher were murdered and six were injured in a horrific shooting in 2024, served to motivate people to support greater regulation of gun ownership."

"In general, cities and 'blue' states are more supportive of progressive social movements, and rural areas and 'red' states are more supportive of conservative social movements."

Chapter 25: Social Change: Traditional, Modern, and Postmodern Societies
The final chapter uses the flow of change over recent centuries to integrate many of the facts and themes found throughout this text. The digital version's updated, interactive Power of Society figure shows how, in economically developed nations, the share of the population that has a favorable view of science varies considerably. A pair of updated, interactive national maps presents a measure of neighborhood stability for all counties. A companion map showing the share of older residents invites students to assess the link between neighborhood stability and a population's age.

A major new section, "Technology and Change," explains how technological revolution—from the invention of agriculture to the development of artificial intelligence—changes almost all dimensions of social life. There are updates on all data in the chapter. The entire discussion of postmodernity has been revised and expanded to include recent arguments. Transgender is noted as one cultural aspect of the process of advancing postmodernity.

In this revised chapter, 56 percent of scholarly references were published between 2020 and 2025.

From the revised chapter:
"Geographic mobility, mass communication, and exposure to diverse ways of life all weaken traditional values. People become more tolerant of social diversity, defending individual rights and freedom of choice. Even gender eventually became a matter of choice."

"Distrust is increasing: Just one in four U.S. adults trusts our national leaders 'to do what is right at least most of the time,' and a majority of people lack confidence in journalists and business leaders as well. More than one-third of U.S. adults do not expect their children's lives to be better than their own."

"Computer technology continues to develop, and artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming part of our lives. What changes might we expect to see in the next decade? The Pew Research Center surveyed a number of people working in AI and found that most expect significant improvements in medical care, such as more personalized treatment; dramatic changes in education as more information becomes available to more people; and changes in social interaction as people use smart earbuds that correct misinformation and smart eyewear that provides information about our surroundings. At the same time, there are widespread concerns about the extent to which AI will eliminate jobs, how AI can be used to distort facts and mislead people, how social media platforms can be weaponized to increase people's stress and anxiety, and the power of AI, eventually, to gain power over human beings."

"The scientific foundation of modern, capitalist society holds that reality is 'out there,' subject to verification by our senses using a scientific method. For example, according to science, a person's sex is (in almost all cases) a matter of biology; in the postmodern era, gender is also based on how a person identifies or defines self."

"Science also focuses on what *is*, rather than what *should be*. Postmodernism claims that reality is relative and can be defined in many ways. The correct 'narrative' is one based on a politically left movement in pursuit of social justice (in Marxist terms, 'true' rather than 'false' consciousness). In this sense, postmodernism is neo-Marxist, that is, a *new* form of Marxism, focused not on a working-class economic revolution but on cultural transformation, driven by a progressive narrative and achieved through control of language and ideas. Therefore, postmodernism seeks change, not through activism in the union halls and on the picket lines (as earlier Marxists would do), but through gaining control of the institutions that shape our thoughts and ideas—the universities, religious organizations, and the mass media and social media."

"Science bases truth on empirical evidence; postmodernism bases truth on political principle and political consequences. For this reason, political conflict plays out as 'culture war,' in which attitudes and ideas are in conflict and those that challenge the pursuit of social justice are rejected as 'disinformation' and 'hate speech.'"

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appear again as the organizing structure of the **Making the Grade** summary at the chapter's end. These learning objectives also involve a range of cognitive abilities. Some sections of the narrative focus on more basic cognitive skills—such as *remembering* the definitions of key concepts and *understanding* ideas to the point of being able to explain them in one's own words—while others ask students to *compare* and *contrast* theories and *apply* them to specific topics. Questions throughout the narrative provide students with opportunities to engage in *discovery*, *analysis*, and *evaluation*. In addition, **Assessments** tied to primary chapter sections, as well as full chapter exams, allow instructors and students to track progress and get immediate feedback.

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- Finally, the author also wrote a more comprehensive **Seeing Sociology in *Your* Everyday Life** photo essay, which serves as the inspiration for a Writing Assignment activity in Revel. These activities show the "everyday life" relevance of sociology by explaining how the material in the chapter can empower students in their personal and professional lives.
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- **PowerPoint Presentations** In order to support varied teaching styles and to easily incorporate dynamic Revel features in class, PowerPoint presentations are available for this edition.

A Note from the Author

This title has been thoroughly and thoughtfully revised to provide best-in-class content. It has also been revised to describe the social diversity of the United States and the world. This promise carries with it the responsibility to use language that is both truthful and respectful. For this revision of *Sociology*, the editorial staff and I have thoroughly reviewed each chapter to ensure that best practices are reflected in language and in use of images.

Speaking personally, this review process has made me keenly aware of the many ways we use language that can have consequences we do not intend. For example, in past editions, I used a descriptive phrase such as "who were slaves" with the intention of describing a historical truth. Deeper reflection, however, led me to change such a construction to "enslaved people." The difference, of course, is that no person is inherently a slave; that is not the human condition. Slavery is a deeply evil societal practice that some people inflict on other people against their will.

All of us, as writers and speakers, have a responsibility to refresh our words in ways that not only are more respectful but also more accurately reflect the world we describe. I hope that, in some small manner, the changes to language found in this title will encourage others to pursue the same self-criticism from which I have benefited.

In Appreciation

The conventional practice of crediting a book to a single author hides the efforts of dozens of women and men who have helped create *Sociology, Nineteenth Edition*. I offer my deep and sincere thanks to the Pearson editorial team for their steady enthusiasm in the pursuit of both innovation and excellence.

Day-to-day work on the content is shared by my friend and colleague, Kelly Eitzen Smith, Ph.D., who works closely with me to ensure that all the data in this revision are the very latest available. Kelly brings enthusiasm that matches her considerable talents. I am grateful for both.

I want to thank Lynda McAlonie, Portfolio Manager, and all the members of the Pearson sales staff, the men and women who have represented this title with confidence and enthusiasm over the years. My hat goes off especially to Wayne Stevens, who is responsible for our marketing campaign. Thanks, also, to Barbara Cappuccio, Amit Verma, and Denise Forlow for managing the design and the production process.

It goes without saying that every colleague knows more about a number of topics covered in this book than the author does. For that reason, I am grateful to the hundreds of faculty members and the many students who have written to me to offer comments and suggestions. Thank you, one and all, for sharing your wisdom and making a difference! Please stay in touch by contacting me at macionis@kenyon.edu. Stay up to date on our titles by visiting my personal website, TheSociologyPage.com, and also the John J. Macionis Facebook page.

Finally, I dedicate this nineteenth edition of *Sociology* to McLean J. Macionis, my dear son, who is a talented artist and a deeply kind and compassionate human being. Now thirty-something, McLean is teaching his own courses at Middlebury College in Vermont. Recently, as I sat quietly in the back of his classroom, I could not have been more proud to observe a wise and well-prepared professor. Thank you, McLean, for all the ways you enrich my life and for all you give to your students!

With best wishes to my colleagues and with love to all, and in pursuit of peace,

macionis@kenyon.edu
FB: John J. Macionis
www.TheSociologyPage.com

About the Author

John J. Macionis (pronounced "ma-SHOW-nis") has been writing about sociology and engaged in classroom teaching for fifty years. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, John earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University, majoring in sociology, and then completed a doctorate in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

His publications are wide-ranging, focusing on community life in the United States, interpersonal intimacy in families, effective teaching, humor, new information technology, and the importance of global education. In addition to authoring this bestseller, Macionis has also written *Society: The Basics,* the most popular brief text in the field, now available in its seventeenth edition. He collaborates on international editions of the titles *Sociology: Canadian Edition*; *Society: The Basics, Canadian Edition*; and *Sociology: A Global Introduction,* which is available in Europe and Asia. *Sociology* is also available for high school students and in a number of foreign-language editions. All the Macionis titles are available as low-cost Revel and Pearson+ editions that offer an interactive, digital learning experience and give students the option of adding a print version. Students can also rent print versions of all U.S. titles.

In addition, Macionis edited the best-selling anthology *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology,* which is also available in a Canadian edition. Macionis and Vincent Parrillo wrote the leading urban studies title *Cities and Urban Life,* now available in its eighth edition. Macionis is also the author of *Social Problems,* now in its ninth edition and the leading title in this field.

The latest on all the Macionis titles, as well as teaching materials and dozens of internet links of interest to students and faculty in sociology, can be found at the author's personal website: www.macionis.com or www.TheSociologyPage.com. Follow John on this Facebook author page: John J. Macionis. Additional information and instructor resources are found at the Pearson site: www.pearsonhighered.com.

Macionis stands alone among authors in this field for taking personal responsibility for writing all print and electronic content, just as he authors all the supplemental material. He proudly resists the trend toward "outsourcing" such material to nonsociologists.

John has also written a new book explaining body science developed by Myrna Haag, R.D., that allows the body to realize lean weight and optimal health. *Why Your Diets Fail and the Science That Really Works* (by Haag and Macionis, 2025) is available in electronic and print versions from all major book outlets.

John Macionis is now retired from full-time teaching at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, where he served as a professor and distinguished scholar of sociology. During that time, he chaired the Sociology Department, directed the college's multidisciplinary program in humane studies, presided over the campus senate and the college's faculty, and taught sociology to thousands of students.

Courtesy of John J. Macionis

In 2002, the American Sociological Association presented Macionis with the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching, citing his innovative use of global material as well as the introduction of new teaching technology in his titles.

Professor Macionis has been active in academic programs in other countries, having traveled within some fifty nations. He writes, "I am an ambitious traveler, eager to learn and, through the texts, to share much of what I discover with students, many of whom know little about the rest of the world. For me, traveling and writing are all dimensions of teaching. First and foremost, I am a teacher—a passion for teaching animates everything I do."

At Kenyon, Macionis taught a number of courses, but his favorite classes have always been Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems. He continues to enjoy extensive contact with students across the United States and around the world.

John lives in Vero Beach, Florida, where he enjoys tennis, swimming, and playing blues and oldies rock-and-roll. He is an environmental activist in the Lake George region of New York's Adirondack Mountains, where he spends the summer and works with a number of organizations, including the Lake George Land Conservancy, where he is past president of the board of trustees, and Fort Ticonderoga, a leading organization in the teaching of U.S. history, where he is vice-chair of the board of trustees.

Professor Macionis welcomes (and responds to) comments and suggestions about this book from faculty and students. Contact him at his Facebook page (John J. Macionis) or email: macionis@kenyon.edu.

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