CONTENTS

| 0011121110 | |
|--|----------|
| Preface to the Fourth Edition | ix |
| INTRODUCTION: DEBATING SOCIAL ISSUES | 1 |
| PART I: BASIC ISSUES IN THE DISCIPLINE | |
| ISSUE 1. SHOULD THE STUDY OF SOCIETY BE VALUE FREE? | 8 |
| Oxford University Press | 10 |
| Free Sociology," Social Problems | 15 |
| Classical sociologist Max Weber believes that the study of society should be "value-free," and that teachers must not impose their views on students. Sociologist Alvin Gouldner counters that it is impossible and undesirable for teachers to eliminate all value judgments from the study of society. | |
| ISSUE 2. DOES SOCIOLOGY BENEFIT SOCIETY? | 22 |
| YES: Jack D. Douglas, from The Relevance of Sociology, | 24 |
| NO: Richard P. Appelbaum, from "The Future Is Made, Not | 30 |
| Sociologist and author Jack Douglas argues that the purpose of studying society is to improve it. This, he contends, makes sociology both relevant and useful. Author Richard Appelbaum contends that sociologists often engage in "pseudo-scientific mystification," which can cloud important issues. | |
| PART II: PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE | |
| ISSUE 3. DOES LOWER-CLASS CULTURE PERPETUATE POVERTY? YES: Edward Banfield, from The Un-Heavenly City Revisisted, | 38 40 |
| Little, Brown NO: William Ryan, from Blaming the Victim, Random House | 45 |
| Professor Edward Banfield suggests that it is the cultural outlook of the poor which tends to keep them in poverty. Psychologist Ryan responds that this is a form of "blaming the victim" for the conditions which surround them. | |
| ISSUE 4. IS ETHNIC CONSCIOUSNESS GOOD FOR AMERICA? | |
| YES: Andrew Greeley, from "After Ellis Island," Harper's NO: Orlando Patterson, from Ethnic Chauvinism: The Reactionary | 56 62 |
| Andrew Greeley, priest and sociologist, claims that ethnic consciousness has given Americans a sense of historical continuity and identity. Sociologist Orlando Patterson holds that ethnic consciousness has resulted in ethnocentrism and divisions within | |

| | 72 74 |
|---|----------|
| | 34 |
| Author and lecturer Kirkpatrick Sale contends that the smaller a community is, the more neighborly and healthy it is. Political observer Henry Fairlie sees the same community as a source of intrusion and loss of privacy. | |
| ISSUE 6. HAS THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT HELPED WOMEN? 9 | 90 |
| · | 2 |
| NO: Midge Decter, from "The Intelligent Woman's Guide to | 9 |
| Author and founder of NOW (National Organization for Women), Betty Friedan, details the positive changes that have taken place in her life as a result of the women's movement. Author and commentator Midge Decter disputes the existence of much of the oppression so often cited by advocates of the women's movement. | |
| PART III: THE INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONS: FAMILY AND WORK | |
| ISSUE 7. ARE TRADITIONAL FAMILIES MORE SUCCESSFUL? | |
| NO: Barbara Deckard, from The Women's Movement: Political, | 7 |
| Conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly supports the traditional role of wife and mother as the source of fulfillment for women. Sociologist Barbara Deckard suggests that this role is demeaning and limiting. | |
| ISSUE 8. ARE ROBOTS A THREAT TO WORKERS' JOBS? | 28 |
| Researcher Harley Shaiken cites a degrading loss of control and motivation that can result from the introduction of robots into the factory workplace. Government researcher James Albus suggests that people can be made rich and free by the robots of the future. | |

| AND MEDIAL TO |
|--|
| PART IV: STRATIFICATION AND INEQUALITY |
| ISSUE 9. IS ECONOMIC INEQUALITY BENEFICIAL TO SOCIETY? |
| Sociologist George Gilder praises the American political economy that provides so many incentives for people to get ahead and make money, and claims that the economy is dynamic and that all classes benefit from it. Psychologist William Ryan contends that income inequalities in America are excessive and immoral because they vastly exceed differences of merit and result in tremendous hardships for the poor. |
| ISSUE 10. IS RACIAL OPPRESSION DECLINING IN AMERICA? |
| NO: Charles V. Willie, from "The Inclining Significance of Race," |
| Sociologist William J. Wilson argues that class, rather than race, is now the dominant factor in determining a person's life chances. Educator Charles V. Willie counters that race remains the primary consideration. |
| ISSUE 11. IS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REVERSE DISCRIMINATION? 186 YES: Glenn C. Loury, from "Beyond Civil Rights," The New Republic 188 NO: Herman Schwartz, from "In Defense of Affirmative Action," 195 Dissent |
| Harvard professor Glenn Loury contends that insistence on "ill-suited" civil rights strategies makes it impossible for blacks to achieve full equality in American society. Author Herman Schwartz argues that we must somehow undo the cruel consequences of racism that still plague our society and its victims. |
| PART V: POLITICAL ECONOMY |
| ISSUE 12. DOES AN ELITE RULE AMERICA? |
| NO: Andrew Greeley, from Building Coalitions: American Politics |
| Sociologist G. William Domhoff tries to demonstrate that the American upperclass occupies a surprisingly large number of influential positions in society which enables it to rule America. Sociologist Andrew M. Greeley argues that there is no single, established center of power and points to the behavior of the system as evidence to support his view. |
| · · |

| ISSUE 13. DOES WELFARE DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD? 222 YES: Charles Murray, from Losing Ground, Basic Books 224 NO: Christopher Jencks, from "How Poor Are the Poor?" The 234 New York Review of Books |
|--|
| Author Charles Murray outlines his contention that welfare programs can result in long-term dependency on the part of the poor. Social commentator Christopher Jencks argues that government aid programs are vital to meeting the needs of the poor. |
| ISSUE 14. DOES AMERICA NEED AN INDUSTRIAL POLICY? |
| NO: Arthur Denzau, from "Removing the Shackles," Society 256 |
| Economist Lester Thurow argues that American industry is not competitive in world markets, so America needs an industrial policy which forges a partnership between government, business, and labor for improving productivity. Economist Arthur Denzau examines the results of the industrial policies of other countries and the various efforts of the U.S. government to help struggling industries and concludes that they are more hinderance than help. |
| PART VI: SOCIAL CONTROL AND DEFENSE |
| ISSUE 15. IS INCAPACITATION THE ANSWER TO THE |
| YES: James Q. Wilson, from <i>Thinking About Crime</i> , Basic Books |
| Professor James Q. Wilson argues that imprisoning everyone convicted of a serious crime for several years would greatly reduce these crimes. He contends that incapacitation is the one policy that works. Judge David L. Bazelon discusses the moral and financial costs of the incapacitation approach and argues that society must attack the brutal social and economic conditions that are the root causes of street crime. |
| ISSUE 16. GAY LIBERATION—MAKE IT QUIETER? 286 |
| YES: Terry Teachout, from "Gay Rights and Straight Realities," |
| NO: Brooks Egerton, from "Gay Politics: A Time to Take Stock," 295 The Progressive |
| Psychologist Terry Teachout thinks that homosexuals should seek modest gains at the local level and quiet their voices. Writer and editor Brooks Egerton thinks that the "gay liberation" movement needs a renewal of vigor, more militance, and a willingness to coalesce with other movements, such as women's liberation. |

| ISSUE 17. IS NUCLEAR DETERRENCE IRRATIONAL? |
|---|
| In arguing for an end to the nuclear arms race, Jonathan Schell, staff writer for the New Yorker, offers a view of the consequences of nuclear war and its implications for the human race and the earth itself. Charles Krauthammer, senior editor of the New Republic, does not dispute the terror of nuclear war, but argues that this very balance of terror is what prevents war from occurring. |
| PART VII: POPULATION/ENVIRONMENT/SOCIETY |
| ISSUE 18. IS THE WORLD THREATENED BY A |
| YES: Steven Mumford, from "Population Growth and Global |
| NO: Julian L. Simon, from "World Population Growth," The |
| Steven Mumford, an expert in population studies, makes his case that population over-growth is the most serious threat to our lives and security. Economist Julian Simon defends his optimistic view that increased population will make greater opportunities available to future generations. |
| ISSUE 19. IS THE ENVIRONMENT IMPROVING? |
| NO: Lindsey Grant, from "The Cornucopian Fallacies: The Myth |
| Economist Julian Simon reviews several indicators of improving environmental conditions for human life. Lindsey Grant, a consultant to the Environmental Fund, accuses Simon of ignoring the many warnings of worldwide environmental stress. |
| ISSUE 20. THE FUTURE: ARE PROSPERITY AND FREEDOM 354 ENDANGERED? |
| YES: William Ophuls, from "The Scarcity Society," Harper's 356 |
| NO: Herman Kahn and John B. Phelps, from "The Economic 363 Present and Future," The Futurist |
| Author William Ophuls sees increasing pressure on democratic institutions as a result of increased competition for limited resources. Futurists Kahn and Phelps outline their predictions for a prosperous and free world. |
| Contributors |