

Summaries

Alexis de Tocqueville and the (American) democracy - A. Lammers

This is an article advocating the study of the unabridged version of *De la démocratie en Amérique*. The book is frequently quoted at random, but Tocqueville's intentions when writing it have been much less frequently analysed. Tocqueville was in pursuit of "une science politique nouvelle à un monde tout nouveau" - the world of democracy. He believed a great deal of material for it could be found in the United States, and after visiting the country he subjected it to methodical and perspicuous study.

According to Tocqueville, many of America's customs and norms might well be recommended for Europe, where there was no stopping the rise of the equality ideal. But his enthusiasm did not pertain to everything he saw in America. One can either emphasize the positive or the negative points he summed up about America. One might also wonder whether his preoccupation with reconciling freedom and equality did not keep him from presenting an accurate picture of the country as it had been created by history. One is nonetheless repeatedly struck by his acute perception of the pros and cons of democracy in general and in the United States in particular. The article gives several examples of American-style democracy. The author, however, is of the opinion that Tocqueville's argumentation centres on his conviction that social processes can be guided by making use of human reason and its resistance to fatalism and pessimism, even though he realized that "un cercle fatale" had been drawn around human freedom.

The Sociogenesis of an Orthodox Jewish Regime in Eighteenth-Century Poland - Daan Meijers

In the anthropology of religion, the rise of religious movements is mainly accounted on the basis of either cultural or socio-structural factors. The theoretical model developed by Mart Bax, engrafted on the ideas of Norbert Elias, with the "religious regime" as the key concept, has led to a well-balanced combination of the two. In this article, the author uses Bax's model in an effort to answer the question of how the sociogenesis

of the Hasidic movement took place among the Jews of Eastern Europe in the eighteenth century. His conclusion is that the church and the state played a prominent role in this development and that the rise of Hasidism preceded a minor regime of mystics.

The Noble and the Ignoble Bandit: Changing Literary Representations of West European robbers - Florike Egmond

This article deals with literary representations of West European bandits. It discusses the literary career of four famous historical bandits - Cartouche, Bakelandt, Jan de Lichte, and Schinderhannes - focusing on structural resemblances between their images. In most bandit stories, their representations have been made to fit the stereotypical image of either the Noble or the Ignoble Bandit, whereas the robber band itself is either depicted as an idyllic society of equals or as a dangerous, subversive counter-society. Referring to structuralist anthropological insights, it is argued that both the negative and the positive stereotype form an inversion of the equally stereotypical self-image of established bourgeois citizens in Western Europe. The second part of the article deals with the social background of the authors and readers of these stories. In the final paragraphs it is argued that both the idealized and the extremely negative image of the bandits should be understood in connection with the increasing influence of nation-states on the lives of their inhabitants.

Andries Sternheim and the Study of Leisure in the Early Frankfurt School - Theo Beckers

From 1931 to 1938 Andries Sternheim, a Dutch sociologist and socialist, was head of the Geneva branch of the Institute of Social Research (The Frankfurt School). He has been largely overlooked in the history of Dutch sociology and in the analysis of critical theory. His main scientific interest in that period was the study of leisure. This article explores the background of this emphasis in his personal development, in the politics of the labour movement since the introduction of an eight-hours labour day and in the organization and research programme of the Institute of Social Research. It tries to explain why Sternheim remained a marginal man in Dutch sociology and in the Frankfurt School. It offers an analysis of his work on leisure and argues the relevance of his work for today's leisure and cultural studies: the fundamental link between production and consumption, the description of working-class culture in the thirties, state intervention and ideology

formation in leisure, the role of the labour movement, his international perspective and his interdisciplinary approach. Sternheim is characterized as a traditional Marxist, but in the first place as a rationalist, who believed in a scientific contribution to the emancipation of the working class.

Social Stratification and Social Co-ordination -
A. Szirmai

In this article, stratification and co-ordination are identified as basic dimensions of sociological analysis which can serve to order and, to some extent, to synthesize various competing theoretical traditions. On the horizontal dimension of co-ordination, social configurations range from highly co-ordinated through anomically co-ordinated to antagonistically co-ordinated configurations. On the vertical dimension of stratification, configurations can be ranked according to the degree of inequality of power chances. Besides degrees of stratification and co-ordination, three types of stratification and co-ordination are distinguished: cultural stratification and co-ordination in which the predominant mode of exercising influence is persuasion and appeal to common culture, exchange co-ordination and stratification in which the predominant mode of exercising influence is the application of negative sanctions and coercive co-ordination and stratification in which the predominant mode of exercising influence is the application of negative sanctions. With the help of this conceptual framework, competing theories of social order and social stratification are reformulated in such a manner that systematic comparisons between them become possible.