Registro 1 de 6

DN: Nombre de base de datos
CSA Sociological Abstracts
TI: Título
BEYOND NEOLIBERALISM
AU: Autor
Touraine, Alain
SO: Fuente
DE: Descriptores
*Globalization; *Political Action; *Social Movements; *Social Closure;
*Social Inequality; *World Economy; France
AB: Resumen
Problems with neoliberal & leftist accounts of globalization's influence on individuals' capacity for political action in the context of France are examined in David Macey's translation from the French Comment sortir du liberalisme (1998). Neoliberal critics' contention that economic globalization is inevitable & that market forces should not be resisted & leftist critics' perception that globalization has victimized some people incapable of bettering their lives are rejected for overlooking individuals' ability to influence political policy. It is contended that globalization constitutes a set of unattached tendencies; the assertion that globalization is producing a liberal international society untouchable by national interests is deemed ideological. The need for social movements to address actual problems -- the increase of corruption & antisocial behavior -- is stressed; in addition, the restraint of social movements deemed negative or socially destructive is advocated. Consequently, the creation of social movements that attempt to overcome the inequality & exclusion introduced by globalization onto various groups is strongly supported. The role of intellectuals in initiating & participating in such movements is also considered. J. W. Parker

Registro 2 de 6

DN: Nombre de base de datos
CSA Sociological Abstracts
TI: Título
WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?
AU: Autor
Touraine, Alain
SO: Fuente
DE: Descriptores
*Sociological Theory; *Democracy; Political Culture; State Power
AB: Resumen
This translation of Qu'est-ce-que la democratie? (Librairie Artheme Fayard, 1994), a sequel to A Critique of Modernity (1995 [1992]), argues that if democracy is to survive in the postcommunist world, it
must protect the nation-state from the economic might of transnational capital at the same time that it limits its power, & it must reconcile the contradictory goals of social diversity & social unity & individual liberty with social integration. Accomplishing these goals requires a recognition that the democratic spirit is only vigorous when it is sustained by a desire for liberation that constantly contests all forms of authority & repression. As such, democracy must be understood as protection for individual & collective battles against domineering logic of systems & not in terms of the traditional notion of democracy as a set of institutional guarantees or a negative liberty. These battles must be waged in a context in which majorities recognize, respect, & applaud the exercise of minority rights if for no other reason than that today's majority may be tomorrow's minority. Democracy so conceived serves human beings insofar as they are their own creators & the creators of their individual & collective lives. The genesis of the modern democratic idea & the attacks on it by scientific & industrial rationalism & totalitarianism are traced. It is suggested that, for most of its history, democracy's space was the space of economic activity & labor relations; recent laments over the decline of democracy wrongly equate this democratic space with the democratic spirit. If, however, democratic culture is understood as a conception of human beings who stubbornly resist all efforts to create an absolute power, then new avenues for the reinvention of democracy are opened. While this conception of democracy does not bring us back to ancient conceptions of citizenship, or even modern understandings of democracy, it does stress the value of allowing individuals, groups, & collectivities to become free subjects who produce their own history & whose actions reconcile the demands of the universalization of reason with particularism. A Preface, Introduction, & Conclusion accompany the 12 Chpts in IV PARTS. 1 Figure, References. D. M. Smith

Registro 3 de 6

DN: Nombre de base de datos
CSA Sociological Abstracts
TI: Título
THE ACADEMIC SYSTEM IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
AU: Autor
Touraine, Alain
SO: Fuente
DE: Descriptores
*United States of America; *Higher Education; *Educational Systems; Educational Reform; Universities; Historical Development; Youth Movements
AB: Resúmen
A new edition of a book first published in 1974 that is part of the Foundations of Higher Education series (David S. Webster, series editor) examines the evolution of the US system of higher education in the socioeconomic context of the 1960s & 1970s. The US university is described as unique in the West, because it at once constitutes its own social & cultural world, & it has played a role in the
integration of the society. The history of the academic system is discussed in terms of three historical stages: (1) In an initial period extending up to WWI, the system was, like society generally, fragmented. The main role of colleges during this time was to form a national elite. (2) In the second period, 1920-1957 (Sputnik launch), higher education became integrated & better organized. Academic policy at this time centered on the creation of a national elite, which became known later as the establishment. (3) When federal funding was infused into the research system after Sputnik, the third stage in higher education was launched. At this time, colleges assumed the role of reproducers of the social order, & they became integrated into a larger system of economic domination & political & military power. It is argued that, because the university is a primary site of scientific & technical knowledge; it has become a locus for main social conflicts, as evidenced by academic student protests. While such protests have been strong among the top elite institutions, they have not shaken the foundations on which the system is built. The topic of reforming higher education is discussed in terms of three questions: (A) Is the student movement an indication of a larger change toward a new type of multiversity? (B) Are efforts by university authorities to answer student protests an effort to redefine the university's role as educator by rethinking the relations between the university & community? (C) Is the university threatened with losing its status as an independent social category? An Introduction by Clark Kerr & a Foreword precede 6 Chpts. 24 Tables, Notes, 211 References. D. M. Smith

Registro 4 de 6

DN: Nombre de base de datos
   CSA Sociological Abstracts
TI: Título
   CRITIQUE OF MODERNITY
AU: Autor
   Touraine, Alain
SO: Fuente
DE: Descriptores
   *Modernity; *Touraine, Alain; *Rationalization; *Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm; *Freud, Sigmund; *Western Society; *Sociological Theory
AB: Resumen
   This collection of essays by one of the West's leading social thinkers -- first published in French (Une Critique de la modernite, Fayard, 1992) & translated by David Macey -- offers an analysis & reinterpretation of the notion of modernity as we make the turn into the twenty-first century. An attempt is made to extricate modernity from a historical tradition that has reduced it to rationalization, while introducing the theme of the personal subject & subjection. It is argued that modernity is the result of a dialogue between reason & subject. Without reason, the subject is trapped into an obsession with identity; without the subject, reason becomes an instrument of might. The book discusses the emergence of rationalist theories of modernity & then traces their destruction
via the critiques of consciousness and reason developed by Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud, and the rise of consumer society and mass communications. This tracing of modernity's path from its ascendency to its crisis sets the stage for the reformulation of the modern. Modernity is redefined as a tense relationship between reason and subject, rationalization and subjectivization, the spirit of the Renaissance and the spirit of Reformation, and science and freedom. The book is organized into three parts, containing 13 chapters, with a note to the reader, an introduction, and a concluding section entitled Points of Arrival. Part I - Modernity Triumphant - opens with (1) The Light of Reason; (2) The Soul and Natural Law; and (3) The Meaning of History. Part II - Modernity in Crisis - includes (1) The Decay of Modernity; (2) The Destruction of the Ego; (3) Nation, Company, Consumer; (4) Intellectuals against Modernity; and (5) Leaving Modernity. Part III - Birth of the Subject - contains (1) The Subject; (2) The Subject as Social Movement; (3) I is not Ego; (4) Light and Shadow; and (5) What Is Democracy?

Registro 5 de 6

DN: Nombre de base de datos
CSA Sociological Abstracts

TI: Título
RETURN OF THE ACTOR: SOCIAL THEORY IN POSTINDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

AU: Autor
Touraine, Alain

SO: Fuente

DE: Descriptores
*Action Theory; *Social Action; *Postindustrial Societies; *Sociological Theory

AB: Resumen
In this translation by Myrna Godzich of Le Retour de l'acteur: essai de sociologie (Paris: Librairie Artheme Fayard, 1984), the social and political influences that have shaped the development of sociology in the past and present are examined, with emphasis on conceptions of action in sociology, in three parts and 13 chapters, with the author's introduction and postscript and a foreword in which Stanley Aronowitz discusses the reconciliation of social science with the existing social order after WWII and identifies Alan Touraine as a critic of this reconciliation. Part I - A New Representation of Social Life - presents (1) From Society to Social Action -- sees classical sociology, which was conceived as an ideology of modernity, as having been destroyed by political events, and suggests that a return to the concept of the actor can provide the basis for recreation of sociology; (2) The Mutation of Sociology -- notes the identification of the state as the center of society in classical sociology and in the political thought that preceded it, and suggests that the passage to a sociology of action involves a separation of social life from the state; (3) The Crisis of Modernity -- notes the crisis of modernity and explores the concept of a postmodern society; and (4) Does Social Life Have a Center? -- suggests that observation of contemporary societies reveals no single actor as a unique bearer of rationality, but only a field of conflicts.
in which claims to speak for society represent strategies, & describes the three central elements of social life as the subject, historicity, & social movements, which can be linked respectively with romantic, epic, & dramatic views of society. PART II - A SOCIOLOGY OF ACTION - includes (5) Eight Ways of Getting Rid of the Sociology of Action -- explains how sociologists attempt to eliminate the sociology of action, through: reduction of the social to the nonsocial; interactionism; separation of systems from actors; division of social facts into arbitrary categories such as economics & politics; equation of cultural values with social norms; the assumption that the ruling class ideology is the total content of sociology; treatment of SCs as protagonists; & confusion of structure & change in evolutionary thought; (6) Social Movements: Particular Object or Central Problem of Sociological Analysis? -- proposes social movements as not merely a particular concern of sociological analysis but its central problem & the central form in which action appears; (7) The Two Faces of Identity -- explores aspects of identity in relation to social movements; (8) Change and Development -- argues that the analysis of systems cannot, as in Marxism, be unified with the analysis of historical transformations; & (9) The Method of Action Sociology: Sociological Intervention -- proposes sociological intervention as the primary method of action sociology, & explores how conclusions can be drawn from an intervention. PART III - QUESTIONING THE PRESENT - concludes with (10) The Birth of Programmed Society -- proposes that postindustrial society can be identified as that in which investment does not merely produce material goods or transform the organization of labor, but changes the ends of production through the production of symbolic goods that change culture itself; (11) The New Social Conflicts -- identifies four general features of social conflicts in the new society: generalization; global scale; conflation with marginal or deviant behavior; & divergence between structural conflicts & conflicts tied to change; (12) The Ebbing of Social Movements -- explores the origins of social movements in the past & the reasons for their present decline; & (13) Social Movements, Revolution, and Democracy -- argues that the past unification of social movements, democracy, & revolution has given way to an increased separation of the three as civil society & the state become more distinct. Postscript -- proposes to set aside the central notions of classical sociology -- society & evolution -- & to reestablish the subject as central to sociology, now in the form of a sociology of actors.
A volume in the SAGE Studies in International Sociology series, based on papers presented at the VIII World Congress of Sociology, Toronto, Aug 1974, assesses the state of modern social problems & what role the scientific-technological revolution can & should play in understanding or solving these crises. Adapted from the source document.