

Part I Introduction

Social Science and Its Methods

chapter 1



After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

- Define social science and explain why it is important
- List the various social sciences
- State the nine steps that make up the scientific method
- Discuss some reasonable approaches to problems in social science
- Differentiate the historical method from the case method and the comparative method
- Distinguish educated common sense from common sense
- Explain why a good scientist is always open to new ways of looking at issues

Theories should be as simple as possible, but not more so.

—Albert Einstein

On September 11, 2001, eighteen men boarded airplanes with the intent of crashing them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the White House or Capitol. They succeeded with three of the planes, causing enormous destruction. The fourth plane crashed, but thanks to passengers who discovered the hijackers' plans and attacked the hijackers, the destruction of the White House or Capitol was prevented. What forces drove the hijackers to undertake such action? What forces led the passengers to organize together to thwart them? What might have prevented the hijackings? Such questions fall under the purview of **social science**—the scientific study of social, cultural, psychological, economic, and political forces that guide individuals in their actions.

Formal social science is relatively new. Nevertheless, a vast amount of information has been accumulated concerning the social life of human beings. This information has been used in building a system of knowledge about the nature, growth, and functioning of human societies. Social science is the name given to that system of knowledge.

All knowledge is (1) knowledge of human beings, including their culture and products, and (2) knowledge of the natural environment. Human culture has been changing, and knowledge about it has been gradually accumulating ever since the far distant time when humans first assumed their distinctively human character. But until rather recent times, this knowledge was not scientific in the modern sense. Scientific knowledge is knowledge that has been systematically gathered, classified, related, and interpreted. Science is concerned with learning the concepts and applying those concepts to particulars, rather than just learning a vast amount of information.

Primitive peoples acquired much of their knowledge unconsciously, just as we today still begin the use of our native language and acquire many of the basic elements in our culture unconsciously. For the most part, they accepted the world as they found it, and if any

Chapter Social Science And Its Methods

Charles Abram Ellwood



Chapter Social Science And Its Methods:

Science and Social Science Malcolm Williams,2012-10-02 Is social science really a science at all and if so in what sense This is the first question that any course on the philosophy of the social sciences must tackle In this brief introduction Malcolm Williams gives students the grounding that will enable them to discuss the issues involved with confidence He looks at The historical development of natural science and its distinctive methodology the case in favour of an objective science of the social which follows the same rules The arguments of social constructionists interpretative sociologists and others against objectivity and even science itself recent developments in natural science for instance the rise of complexity theory and the increased questioning of positivism which bring it closer to some of the key arguments of social science Throughout the book is illustrated with short clear examples taken from the actual practice of social science research and from popular works of natural science which will illuminate the debate for all students whatever their background

Principles of Social Science Henry Charles Carey,1888 *An Introduction to Social Research* Howard Washington Odum,Katharine C. Jocher,1929 Study Guide for Research Methods in the Social Sciences Chava Frankfort-Nachmias,David Nachmias,2007-03-21 The guide includes chapter objectives key terms and concepts and main points for each chapter plus self evaluation quizzes review tests exercises and projects

Book Catalogues: 1894 ,1894 **Bulletin - National Council for the Social Studies** National Council for the Social Studies,1969 *Completing Your Research Project* Charlotte Brookfield,Jamie Lewis,2025-01-08 Simple Comprehensive Logical This book is a companion guide for anyone completing a research project in the social sciences It covers the whole research process from planning developing collecting data analysing data and writing up It will help you manage and complete your research project successfully It will guide you on Planning your research project Developing data collection tools Analysing and interpreting data Presenting your research in different formats Featuring chapter objectives checklists student exercises weblinks and further reading this comprehensive guide ensures readers navigate the complexities of research within a manageable step by step framework

Social Science ,1930 **Social Science** Elgin F. Hunt,David C. Colander,1987 **Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science** American Academy of Political and Social Science,1922 **An Introduction to Social Psychology** Charles Abram Ellwood,1917 Exercises for "Methods of Teaching in High Schools" Samuel Chester Parker,1918 Understanding Principles of Politics and the State John J. Schrems,2007 Originally published under the title Principles of Politics this completely revised and updated work is a study in applied political theory It uses current political society and politics as its backdrop and shows that the nature authority origin and purpose of the state are dictated by fundamental theoretical and practical principles linked to the goals and values of ordinary life Helpful in the quest for understanding are depictions of the political world by ancient philosophers as well as contemporary political scientists With detailed examples *Understanding Principles of Politics and the State* examines the charge that democracy is a myth describes

the world of academic political science and belies the cynicism that principles and politics do not go together An efficient and effective organizing principle is used to explain justice rights groups church and state federalism constitutionalism and even proposals for world government A brief case study of the Philippines illustrates some basic principles of state building A preference for presidential over parliamentary government stands at odds with the view of many commentators The necessity for principles in understanding ubiquitous change ends the book Book jacket Illustrations of the Methods of Reasoning Daniel Sommer Robinson,1927 Philosophy of Social Science Ted Benton,Ian Craib,2023-02-09 Philosophers and social scientists share a common goal to explore fundamental truths about ourselves and the nature of the world in which we live But in what ways do these two distinct disciplines inform each other and arrive at these truths This third revised edition of this highly regarded text directly responds to such issues as it introduces students to the philosophy of social science This classic text has been brought up to date with a new introduction and commentaries reflecting on the original chapters in the context of more recent developments Two brand new chapters discuss critical social science and one of the most pressing issues concerning social scientists today how we interrogate human society s complex relationship with nature and its impact on biodiversity and climate change The book Clearly introduces the theoretical underpinnings of social science assuming no prior knowledge Addresses critical issues relating to the nature of social science Interrogates the relationship between social science and natural science Encompasses traditional and contemporary perspectives Introduces and critiques a wide range of approaches from empiricism and positivism to post structuralism and rationalism Written in an engaging and student friendly style the book introduces key ideas and concepts while raising questions and opening debates A cornerstone text in the Traditions in Social Theory series this book remains essential reading for all students of social theory and social science research *Columbia University Studies in the Social Sciences* ,1925 **Basic Research Methods in Social Science** Julian Lincoln Simon,Paul Burstein,1985 Principles of Social Economy Yves Guyot,1884 **Mind** ,1885 The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science ,1905

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