

American Society: How It Really Works (Second Edition)

By Erik Olin Wright, Joel Rogers



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The definitive critical introduction to American society.

In American Society: How It Really Works, Erik Olin Wright and Joel Rogers ask several key questions: What kind of society is America? How does it really work and why is it the way it is? In what ways does it need changing, and how can those changes be brought about? To answer these questions, Wright and Rogers identify five core social values that most Americans affirm in one way or another: freedom, prosperity, efficiency, fairness, and democracy. The authors then challenge readers to question to what degree contemporary American society actually lives up to these values and suggest how we might make progress in solving some of the social problems that confront America today.



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American Society: How It Really Works (Second Edition) By Erik Olin Wright, Joel Rogers Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"American Society: How It Really Works is sociology at its best, theoretically grounded, empirically based, and tightly argued. Wright and Rogers provide a unique introduction to the sociological perspective by focusing on four core American social values? efficiency, freedom, fairness, and democracy? and show the ways that American society does not measure up to its potential, give sociological reasons why this is the case, and use the sociological imagination to suggest possible futures for a more just and equitable society. The perfect book not only to introduce students to sociological analysis, but to engage them in the major issues of our time." (Rhonda F. Levine, Colgate University)

"There can be no better introduction to American society than one written by these two brilliant commentators." (Michael Burawoy, University of California, Berkeley)

"I used Wright and Rogers's *American Society* for an introductory sociology course. The text provided an accessible entrance into the fundamentals of sociological analysis, from economic principles and social inequality to mass consumption to participatory democracy. The work is clearly theoretically informed, but the most impressive contribution lies in the wealth of empirical studies, statistics, tables, and figures provided throughout the text. My students were particularly drawn to the empirical evidence and the consistent reference to contemporary debates about social issues, such as health care and campaign financing. The authors' suggestions for ways to reduce social inequality ignited class discussions about the limits and potential of social change at the personal and structural level. I would recommend this text for any introductory sociology course focused on alternative understandings of social inequality in American society." (Robyn Autry, Wesleyan University)

"Imagine a book about American social dynamics written by a pair of public intellectuals who are also eminent academics, aimed at beginners. Imagine a book that gives equal weight to facts and ideas, treating each with lucidity and grace. This is that book." (David Smith, University of Kansas)

About the Author

Erik Olin Wright is arguably the most prominent scholar analyzing the social impact of class in the United States, and his research has mainly involved large-scale quantitative investigations of various themes connected to social inequality. Wright is the author of many books, including Class Counts, Interrogating Inequality, and Classes. He has also organized what he calls the "Real Utopias Project," which explores a wide range of radical proposals for transforming the core institutions of contemporary society (and is also a series of books for Verso). In addition, he founded the A.E. Havens Center at the University of Wisconsin, whose mission is to foster dialogue between activists and academics and to encourage critical perspectives on contemporary social issues.

Joel Rogers, a MacArthur Foundation "genius" prize-winner and identified by Newsweek as one of the 100 living Americans most likely to shape U.S. politics and culture in the twenty-first century, is professor of law, political science, public affairs, and sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The common thread in his academic work is democracy: how to define and measure it, what makes it work, how to make it work better. Rogers spends a lot of time outside the university advising people in politics, government, business, and social movements. He runs the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, which promotes "high road" (i.e., equitable, sustainable, democratic) economic development and governance, and has produced a stream

of influential innovations in worker training; business and labor strategy; and local, state, and national policy.

Users Review

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Luisa Johnson:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book titled American Society: How It Really Works (Second Edition)? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Nancy Tandy:

Why? Because this American Society: How It Really Works (Second Edition) is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So, it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So, still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Paul Smith:

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