



a Pelican Original

# The Founding Fathers of Social Science

Edited by Timothy Raison

Adam Ferguson
Saint-Simon
Comte
Mill
Le Play
Marx
Engels
Herbert Spencer
Tylor
Booth
Sorel
Pareto
Veblen
Durkheim
Simmel
Sidney and Beatrice Webb
Weber
Hobhouse
Park
Radcliffe-Brown
Malinowski
Sorokin
Mannheim
Talcott Parsons



PELICAN BOOKS

THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Timothy Raison was born in 1929 and educated at Eton, where he was a King's Scholar, and Christ Church, Oxford, where he held an open scholarship in history. He worked on *Picture Post* from 1953 to 1956, and on the *New Scientist* from 1956 to 1961. He edited *Crossbow* from 1958 to 1960 and was the editor of *New Society* from 1962, when it was launched, until 1968.

He was a member of the Youth Service Development Council from 1960 to 1963 and a member of the Central Advisory Council on Education from 1963 to 1966. He has been a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Drug Dependence, since 1966, and since 1967 he has been a co-opted member of the I.L.E.A. Education Committee, a member of the governing body of Chelsea College of Science and Technology, and a councillor in the London borough of Richmond upon Thames. He was awarded the Nansen Medal for his part as one of the originators of the World Refugee Year.

Timothy Raison is the author of *Why Conservative?* (Penguin, 1964) and the editor of *Youth in New Society* (1966). 'A bad cricketer and a worse painter', he is married and has three daughters and a son.



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## PREFACE

ONE of the more intriguing problems which faced us when, in October 1962, we launched *New Society* as a weekly devoted to the social sciences and society was how best to tackle theoretical sociology. Obviously, a social science journal which ignored social theory would not be doing what it claimed to do. On the other hand, theoretical sociology and social anthropology are not easily put over to an audience which, however intelligent, must include a substantial number of laymen.

It was not long before we decided that the most effective approach, by and large, would be through the lives and works of the leading social scientists, whom we dubbed – perhaps a little portentously – the Founding Fathers of Social Science. We began the first series on 28 March 1963 with a study of Émile Durkheim by John Rex. Since then we have covered most of the major figures of sociology and social anthropology, though inevitably the choice has been arbitrary. Our contributors – apart from the distinguished American, Everett C. Hughes – came from the British academic world. We hope that one incidental effect of the book will be to show that there are more intelligent and articulate British sociologists than some people realize. Anyway, I am very grateful to them for their cheerful and stimulating cooperation in producing the series.

I am particularly grateful to Professors Donald MacRae and Julius Gould for allowing me to pick their brains so often about possible subjects and contributors. The ultimate choice of both the latter was, of course, mine; but they and others helped me to cover up my deficiencies as a non-social scientist editor of a journal so closely concerned with social science. I am grateful, too, to Paul Barker, who edited some of the individual articles in the series, and to Jane Fells, my secretary over the whole period when the Founding Fathers appeared. I would like to record, too, my indebtedness to my father, Maxwell Raison, and Collin Shepherd for all they have done for *New Society*.

TIMOTHY RAISON