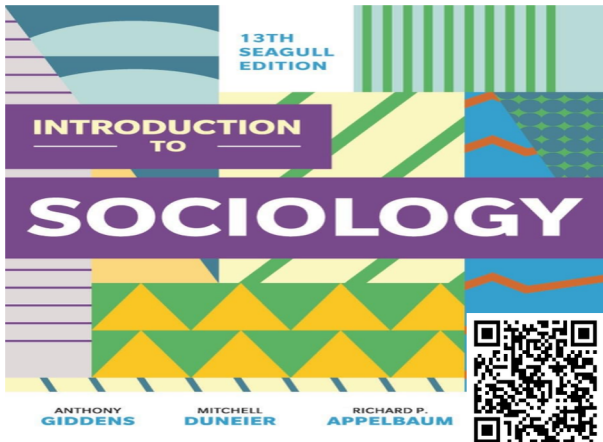


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Preface

We wrote this book with the belief that sociology plays a key role in modern intellectual culture and occupies a central place within the social sciences. We have aimed to write a book that combines classic theories of sociology with empirically grounded studies and examples from real life that reveal the basic issues of interest to sociologists today. The book does not bring in overly sophisticated notions; nevertheless, ideas and findings drawn from the cutting edge of the discipline are incorporated throughout. We hope it is a fair and nonpartisan treatment; we endeavored to cover the major perspectives in sociology and the major findings of contemporary American research in an evenhanded, although not indiscriminate, way.

MAJOR THEMES

The book is constructed around eight basic themes, each of which helps give the work a distinctive character. One of the central themes is the **micro and macro link**. At many points in the book, we show that interaction in micro-level contexts affects larger, or macro-level, social processes and that these macro-level processes influence our day-to-day lives. We emphasize that one can better understand a social situation by analyzing it at both the micro and macro levels.

A second theme is that of the **world in change**. Sociology was born out of the transformations that wrenched the industrializing social order of the West away from the ways of life that characterized earlier societies. The world created by these changes is the primary object of sociological analysis. The pace of social change has continued to accelerate, and it is possible that we stand on the threshold of transitions as significant as those that occurred

in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sociology has prime responsibility for charting the transformations of the past and grasping the major lines of development taking place today.

Another fundamental theme is the **globalization of social life** . For far too long, sociology has been dominated by the view that societies can be studied as independent and distinct entities. But even in the past, societies never really existed in isolation. In current times, we can see a clear acceleration in processes of global integration. This is obvious, for example, in the expansion of international trade across the world or the rapid spread of the deadly coronavirus disease around the globe. The emphasis on globalization also connects closely with the interdependence of the industrialized and developing worlds today.

The book also focuses on the importance of **comparative study** . Sociology cannot be taught solely by understanding the institutions of any one particular society. Although we have focused our discussion primarily on the United States, we have balanced it with a rich variety of materials drawn from other cultures. These include research carried out in other Western countries and in Russia and Eastern European societies, which are currently undergoing substantial changes. The book also includes much more material on developing countries than has been usual in introductory texts. In addition, we strongly emphasize the relationship between sociology and anthropology, whose concerns often overlap. Given the close connections that now mesh societies across the world and the virtual disappearance of many types of traditional social systems, sociology and anthropology have increasingly become indistinguishable.

A fifth theme is the necessity of taking a **historical approach** to sociology. This involves more than just filling in the historical context within which events occur. One of the most important developments in sociology over the past few years has been an increasing emphasis on historical analysis. This should be understood not solely as applying a sociological outlook to the past but as contributing to

our understanding of institutions in the present. Recent work in historical sociology is discussed throughout the text and provides a framework for the interpretations offered in the chapters.

Throughout the text, particular attention is given to a sixth theme—issues of **social class, gender, and race**. The study of social differentiation is ordinarily regarded as a series of specific fields within sociology as a whole—and this volume contains chapters that specifically explore thinking and research on each subject ([Chapters 8](#) , [10](#) , and [11](#) , respectively). However, questions about gender, race, and class relations are so fundamental to sociological analysis that they cannot simply be considered subdivisions of the field. Thus, many chapters contain sections concerned with the ways that multiple sources of social stratification shape the human experience.

A seventh theme is that a solid grasp of **sociological research methods** is crucial for understanding the world around us. A strong understanding of how social science research is conducted is crucial for interpreting and making sense of the many social “facts” that the media trumpet.

The final major theme is the relationship between the **social and the personal**. Sociological thinking is a vital help to self-understanding, which in turn can be focused back on an improved understanding of the social world. Studying sociology should be a liberating experience: The field enlarges our sympathies and imagination, opens up new perspectives on the sources of our own behavior, and creates an awareness of cultural settings different from our own. Insofar as sociological ideas challenge dogma, teach appreciation of cultural variety, and allow us insight into the working of social institutions, the practice of sociology enhances the possibilities of human freedom.

ORGANIZATION

Every chapter in the Thirteenth Seagull Edition follows the same structure, making it easier for students to study. Each chapter opens with an attention-grabbing question that challenges students' misconceptions about the topic.

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1. Basic concepts
2. Important theories
3. Current research
4. Unanswered questions

At the end of each section, students have the opportunity to test themselves with integrated "Concept Check" quizzes. The Thirteenth Seagull Edition also features "Big Picture" concept maps that integrate the learning objectives, key terms, "Concept Checks," and "Thinking Sociologically" activities into a handy one-stop review tool at the end of each chapter.

The chapters follow a sequence designed to help students achieve a progressive mastery of the different fields of sociology, but we have taken care to ensure that the book can be used flexibly and will be easy to adapt to the needs of individual courses. Chapters can be deleted or studied in a different order without much loss. Each has been written as a fairly autonomous unit, with cross-referencing to other chapters at relevant points.

In this edition, racial and ethnic categorizations are considered proper nouns and thus are capitalized. As Temple University journalism professor Lori Tharps notes, "Black with a capital B refers to people of the African diaspora. Lowercase black is simply a color" (Tharps, 2014). In the same way, "White" as a racial category acknowledges the functions of this label in society. Racial designations are not neutral markers of skin tone, but socially constructed categories whose meanings and boundaries shift over

time and place. Treating these categories as proper nouns recognizes them as such (Appiah, 2020).

WHAT'S NEW IN THE THIRTEENTH EDITION

All the chapters in the book have been updated and revised to reflect the most recent available research and data. Each chapter opens with a contemporary news event or social trend—ranging from the most local to the most global. These events are used to introduce and explain the key sociological concepts, themes, and studies that are elaborated on throughout the text.

[Chapter 1 \(What Is Sociology?\)](#): A new introduction to the chapter discusses how the sociological imagination can be used to better understand major world events like the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. This exploration continues into the “Conflict Theories” section, which includes an expanded discussion of how conflict theory can shed light on wartime violence in today’s world.

[Chapter 2 \(Asking and Answering Sociological Questions\)](#): In the section titled “A Recent Example of an Ethnography,” a new discussion of Forrest Stuart’s research for his book *Down, Out, and Under Arrest: Policing and Everyday Life in Skid Row* is introduced as an example of an ethnographer exploring the complex structural and interpersonal dynamics related to the policing of poverty. In the “Recent Example of an Experiment” section, an experiment that tried to determine the influence of gender on college students’ evaluations of their professors has been added as a new example. In the “How Can Social Research Avoid Exploitation?” section, new findings are presented from community-based participatory research, a collaborative approach that equitably involves researchers and research subjects.

[Chapter 3 \(Culture and Society\)](#): New research on the effects of social media platforms like TikTok on the mental health of young people in China opens [Chapter 3](#) . The data in “The Global South”

section have been updated to better reflect the anticolonial struggles faced by most countries in this conceptual region of the world (such as malnutrition, unstable economies, lack of education, low life expectancy, and substandard housing).

Chapter 4 (Socialization and the Life Course): The “Mass Media” section of [Chapter 4](#) continues to explore the topic of social media usage with updates that reflect the ever-evolving relationship between technology and today’s youth. The “Childhood” section has been updated with more current reports on the prevalence of child labor and child abuse to heighten the reader’s awareness of the social problems that many children still suffer from today.

Chapter 5 (Social Interaction and Everyday Life): The “Audience Segregation and Sticky Reputations” section features new coverage of the relationship between online infamy and audience segregation. This section includes a new discussion of Forrest Stuart’s *Ballad of the Bullet: Gangs, Drill Music, and the Power of Online Infamy*, which examines drill music in Chicago. In the “Faces, Gestures, and Emotion” section, the discussion of video-communication platforms has been updated to clarify the differences between face-to-face and electronic modes of communication today. The section titled “Social Life and the Ordering of Space and Time” has been streamlined to create space for updated research on technology’s ability to connect disparate corners of the world and distant points in time. The “What Happens When Dating Moves Online?” and the “To What Extent Can Electronic Communication Substitute for Face-to-Face Communication?” sections have both been updated with the most current research on the pros and cons of online dating and social communication today.

Chapter 6 (Networks, Groups, and Organizations): Updated research on internet access and social media usage rates in the United States is dispersed throughout this chapter. The information on remote work in the “How Are Late-Modern Organizations Reinventing Themselves?” section has been refreshed to reflect the

ways in which business organizations are adopting more collaborative and flexible models of operation due to shifts in social communication in this technological age.

Chapter 7 (Conformity, Deviance, and Crime): The “What Is Deviance?” section has a new discussion of computer hacking as an illustration of the relationship between deviance and crime. The “Mass Incarceration” section features an updated exploration of the reasons for and costs of the United States producing a fifth of the world’s prisoners. The section also explores the ways that private companies profit from the large inmate population. The “Crimes of the Powerful” section includes a new discussion of Sam Bankman-Fried. Lastly, the “Mass Incarceration” section includes updated coverage of the particularly disastrous impact that this prison system has on Black communities, as African Americans make up over a third of all U.S. prisoners despite only comprising one-tenth of the country’s population.

Chapter 8 (Stratification, Class, and Inequality): This chapter begins with a new “pop quiz” and chapter opener about recent changes to the federal minimum wage. The “Systems of Stratification” section includes a new discussion of Isabel Wilkerson’s research on slavery, caste, and class systems. New data in the “Income” section parallels the steep rise in inequality today with how it was before the Great Depression. The “Wealth” section includes updated data on growing wealth disparities in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, followed by a new discussion in the “Education” section on how education impacts earnings. In the “Marx: Capitalism and the Analysis of Class” section, a new paragraph on communism in China explores class in socialist societies. Research and data updates on wealth, technology, and globalization have been added to the “Upper Class” section, including sociologist Rachel Sherman’s research on the relationships between superrich people and their political parties. The “Middle Class” section includes a new discussion of how the recent shift toward remote work has impacted lower and middle-class people. In the “Poverty in the United States” section,

new research on the impact of Covid-19 on poverty has been added, including a new figure that illustrates the dynamic between rising poverty rates and increasing economic growth. To follow, the “Why Are Poverty Rates Rising in the United States?” section introduces new research on the relationship between poverty and welfare. Lastly, the “How Will These Economic Patterns Affect Your Life?” section rounds out the chapter with additional coverage on the correlations between a person’s education, the occupation it affords them, the resulting income, and eventually, the likely trajectory of their economic future.

[Chapter 9 \(Global Inequality\)](#): The section titled “Is Global Economic Well-Being Improving?” includes updates on average incomes worldwide over the last 20 years. With that context, the “Research on Global Inequality Today” section reports that roughly one in nine people in the world suffers from chronic hunger as of 2022, mostly in the Global South.

[Chapter 10 \(Inequality on the Basis of Gender and Sexuality\)](#): [Chapter 10](#) has been renamed due to new coverage of inequality on the basis of *sexuality* in addition to gender. In the “Basic Concepts” section, a new discussion on the distinctions between gender, sexual orientation, sex, and other related terms has been added to lay the foundation for further discussion of inequality on the basis of gender and sexuality. For example, in the “Research” section, a new discussion has been added to closely investigate inequality on the basis of sexual orientation in particular. The “Understanding Sex Differences: The Role of Biology” section includes updated research on the relationship between biology and gender roles, introducing new research on the differences in how biologically male and female adolescents show aggression. In the “Blurring the Boundaries Between the Genders” section, additional research shows that the number of persons in the United States who identify outside the male/female binary has risen drastically in recent years. The “Gendered Inequalities in Education: Unequal Treatment in the Classroom” section introduces new information from studies

that show that little has changed in how male versus female characters are portrayed in texts, from the personal traits that are highlighted in each gender to the paid occupations that each chooses. That section includes a new study on how Black boys are disproportionately more vulnerable to school suspension compared to other students. In the “Gendered Inequalities in the Workplace” section, research has been updated on the growing numbers of women working outside the home. Despite the rise in women’s workforce participation, this section also includes research showing that the family burdens placed on women during in the Covid-19 pandemic hindered their rising participation in the workforce. In the sections on occupational segregation, discussions of workforce disparities between women and men in tech professions and executive positions have been added. The “How Does Gender Inequality Affect Men?” section includes a new discussion on emerging research on the pressure transgender men feel to comply with hegemonic masculinity norms. The “Gender-Based Violence: Concepts and Patterns” section introduces new studies showing that rates of intimate partner violence are considerably higher for transgender couples than it is for others. To end this section, a new paragraph introduces research showing that the rates of sexual and nonsexual violence against transgender women and nonbinary persons have escalated in recent years at an alarming speed. The “Why Does Violence Persist? Competing Perspectives” section includes a new survey that indicates that rape victims are uniquely vulnerable to being blamed for other people attacking them. This same section includes new coverage of Russia’s violent attack on Ukraine, marked by sexual assault, torture, and kidnapping. The section also introduces new information showing that LGBTQ+ persons who are victims of sexual violence cannot report their attacks for fear of reprisal or even death because of the criminalization of same-sex relations. Lastly, a new paragraph in this section has been added detailing the UN’s 2016 resolution, which was adopted with the intention of taking action to end these fundamental assaults on human rights.

[Chapter 11](#) (Race, Ethnicity, and Racism): The introduction to [Chapter 11](#) offers new coverage of how continual changes to census categories underscore evolving conceptions of race and ethnicity in the United States. The “Institutional Racism” section includes new coverage of the Black Lives Matter movement, including discussion of the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder and research on the evidence for institutional racism in policing, including the 2023 report from the U.S. Justice Department on structural racism in the Minneapolis Police Department. In the “Overt Racism: Racism With Racists” section, prior examples of blatant prejudice were updated with more recent crimes and incidents of overt racism. In the “Asian Americans” section, a new discussion explores the widespread diversity of ethnic experiences that the term “AAPI” tries to capture today, including the harms of the Asian American “model minority” myth. This section also has new coverage of the Page Act and the Chinese Exclusion Act, which outlawed Chinese immigration because of hostility from White Americans who viewed them as an economic threat, making way for a wave of racist crimes like lynching against Asian Americans across the United States. Another new paragraph explains how Asians today continue to experience discrimination and violence—exemplified by the significant rise in anti-Asian violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. The “Migratory Movements” section features a new discussion of changing migration trends over the last decade, including the increase in migrants to the United States from Central America. The “Educational Attainment” section includes a new discussion on the role of affirmative action policies at colleges and universities and the impact the recent Supreme Court decision will have on admissions policies and school diversity.

[Chapter 12](#) (Aging): [Chapter 12](#) opens with a revised “pop quiz” on the lifestyles of older adults. The “Graying of Society” section offers new coverage and updated data on how society designates who will care for older adults. In the “How Do People Age?” section, there is also new coverage on how and why older adults today are living longer than the generations before them. New information on the correlation between health and socioeconomic status in the

United States has been introduced as well, accompanied by more data updates. New research on racial gaps in life expectancy has been added to the “Social Conflict” section. Similarly, in the “Life Course Frameworks” section, more research on the health of Black older adults has been added. In the “Subgroup Differences in Late-Life Poverty Rates” section, new coverage on older adults and financial crises has been added to the updated data. The “Social Isolation” section includes new research on gender and loneliness. Data have been updated in the “Ageism” section, supporting new coverage on how Covid-19 has intensified elder abuse. Further, in the “Unanswered Questions: The Social, Political, and Economic Impacts of Population Aging” section, new coverage has been added on societal changes due to population aging. To close the chapter, a new section on caregiver shortages ponders who will care for older adults when they are unable to care for themselves and the workforce lacks enough caretakers to help.

Chapter 13 (Government, Political Power, and Social Movements): [Chapter 13](#) opens with a new section on the Economic Intelligence Unit’s annual Democracy Index—focusing specifically on where the United States falls in that ranking. In the “Democracy” section, additional historical context has been added to examine the rights of formerly enslaved people across various states, accompanied by an examination of participatory democracy. New introductions to representative democracy, liberal democracy, monarchy, constitutional monarchy, and authoritarianism follow. The “Global Rise of Populist Authoritarianism” section offers new coverage of populism and compares political participation in different countries. A new section, “Elections and Party Systems,” examines the system of representation in the United States. Another new section titled “Political Parties and Party Preferences” provides historical context for politics in the United States, while “Political Participation in the United States” looks at the various ways for citizens to engage politically on a local level. A new section titled “The Political Participation of Women” highlights the historical limitations and recent advances of women in politics, and a new

section called “Interest Groups, Money, and Politics” critiques the role of money in politics. In the “Role of Social Media” section, additional research on misinformation and community building online as it relates to politics has been added; and in the “Why Do Social Movements Occur?” section, additional research on collective action and social movement theory has been introduced. The “Nation-State, National Identity, and Globalization” section includes additional research that draws on Kenichi Ohmae’s book *The End of the Nation State: The Rise of Regional Economies*, examining the irrelevance of borders in the information age. Lastly, a new section called “Why Is Voter Turnout So Low in the United States?” examines the historical roots of voter turnout, and another new section called “Is Social Media a Force for Democracy—or Demagoguery?” examines the role of social media in politics.

Chapter 14 (Work and Economic Life): This chapter begins with a new discussion of why the majority of global supply chain workers are women. The “Basic Concepts” section that follows examines how gender norms are perpetuated by the idea of housework. The “Types of Capitalism” section explores the rise of international media magnate Rupert Murdoch’s into power. The “Fordism and Scientific Management (Taylorism)” section introduces new information on surveillance in the workplace by artificial intelligence (AI). The “Informal Economy” section explores the dangers of dark web environments like the Hydra Market. In the “Twenty-First-Century Corporation: Different From Its Twentieth-Century Counterpart” section, an explanation of how Walmart cut workers off from union jobs and made dissatisfied and underpaid employees the norm is introduced, as well as an examination of China’s advances in technology and government-supported industry. The section on labor unions—renamed “After Struggling to Be Effective, Are Labor Unions Rebounding?”—has been streamlined and updated to reflect how the power of labor unions has changed in recent years. In the “Unanswered Questions” section, Figure 14.4 on the rise of the service sector has been updated. Discussion of government concern over AI as a workforce disruptor has been added to the “Will

Automation Make Things Better or Worse for Workers?” section. Similarly, in the “How Permanent Is Your Job Likely to Be?” section, discussion of the increasing rate of part-time and temporary employment compared to full-time permanent employment is now included.

Chapter 15 (Families and Intimate Relationships): [Chapter 15](#) includes updates to figures and statistics. For example, in the “Family Formation and Dissolution Trends in the Contemporary United States” section, Figure 15.1, on median age at first marriage, has been updated; in the “Divorce and Separation” section, Figure 15.5 provides updated information on divorce rates in the United States; and throughout the whole chapter, there are updated statistics reflecting factors in contemporary family configurations, such as ethnicity, sexuality, age, wealth, and single parenthood. Coverage on the norms of sexual attractiveness for both males and females has been moved from the previous edition’s gender chapter to this new edition’s chapter on families and intimate relationships, where discussions of gender and sexuality intersect with those on intimacy and relationships. The relocation of this material about both gender and sexuality and intimate relationships allows for deeper discussion of how societal standards for attractiveness in intimate relationships are affected by one’s gender and sexuality.

Chapter 16 (Education): The “Tracking and Within-School Effects” section includes new research from a study by sociologist Adam Gamoran, who argues that tracking benefits advanced students who are predominantly privileged and White and reinforces previously existing inequalities for less advanced students who are predominantly underprivileged and of color. In the “Race and the ‘Acting White’ Thesis” section, new data reports changes in the achievement gap between various groups in recent years. Further, updated statistics indicating that more girls than boys enroll in a four-year college after high school can be found in the “Gender and Achievement” section. New information has been introduced in the homeschooling section that shows that the number of students who

are homeschooled in the United States has doubled over the last two decades. The section also includes new research on parents' reasons for homeschooling, the most frequently cited being concern about the school environment, a desire to provide moral instruction, and a dissatisfaction with the academic instruction at other schools. Interestingly, additional research brought into the section indicates that White students have a higher homeschooling rate than Black or Hispanic students. In the section on who benefits from international education in the United States, updates have been made to data on the amount of money that foreign students contribute to the U.S. economy have.

Chapter 17 (Religion in Modern Society): This chapter opens with updated research on the prevalence of religious stereotypes in America, exploring new data that shows the rise in widespread negative stereotypes that many people in the United States harbor against Muslims. In the "Secularization: The Sociological Debate" section, updated data shows the ongoing geographic spread of Christianity from Europe and North America to the Global South. The "Religion in the United States" section includes updated data on the rise of people with no religious affiliation at all. Even with the decline in religious affiliation in the United States, the "Trends in Religious Affiliation" section confirms that most Americans still identify as Christian—with Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu people composing just 2 percent or less of the whole population. The "Catholicism" section includes data updates indicating that of the third of Americans born Catholic, two-fifths of them no longer identify with the Catholic Church. Lastly, the "Other Religious Groups" section has updated data showing that in the last decade over three-fifths of Jews have married non-Jews.

Chapter 18 (The Sociology of the Body: Health, Illness, and Medicine): Material previously included in this chapter on concepts related to sexuality and sexual orientation not directly related to health has been moved to the gender and sexuality chapter. The chapter opens with updated coverage of the multiple factors that

contribute to a person's mental and physical health—including genetic makeup, their lifestyle choices, and their financial privilege. In the "Changing Conceptions of Health, Illness, and Medicine" section, new research is included on how death is highly medicalized and viewed as something to be fought or cured, how Covid-19 became the third-most-common cause of death among older adults in 2020 and 2021, and how the Clean Air Act in 1970 helped Americans breathe less pollution. Additional research has been added about the contemporary impacts of colonialism on global health in low-income countries in the "Colonialism and the Spread of Disease" section. New data about Covid-19 and sickness, focusing on patients who refused to receive vaccines and were maligned as responsible for their condition, can be found in the "Functionalist Perspectives: Sick Role Theory" section. In the "Research on Health, Illness, and Health Behaviors Today" section, new research on how mental health issues related to Covid-19 have affected teens and young adults has been incorporated. A new discussion has been added on vaccine hesitancy and the importance of health literacy in the "Social Class–Based Inequalities in Health" section. In the "Race-Based Inequalities in Health" section, new research on systemic racism has been introduced, explaining how racial inequalities have infiltrated and perpetuated inequality when it comes to health care access. A new discussion follows with new research suggesting that, despite having fewer socioeconomic resources than more privileged Whites, Hispanics prove at times to be healthier than them. In the "Gender-Based Inequalities in Health" section, additional research has been introduced showing that men are more likely than women to die of Covid-19; that newborn girls are more likely to survive Covid-19 than newborn boys; that women are more likely than men to report their health as fair to poor; and that men are less likely to report their depressive symptoms than women. In the "Childbirth" section, additional research on how women shoulder the burden of preventing pregnancy and how young people are delaying marriage and childbearing is introduced. The section on the efficacy of alternative versus mainstream medicine includes additional research showing that Americans have become frustrated with the expense of

mainstream health care and are turning to complementary and alternative medicine as a result. In the section titled “Are Eating Disorders Primarily a ‘Women’s’ Problem?,” additional research has been incorporated on how boys and young men also suffer from body image dissatisfaction; how young trans people also experience body dissatisfaction; and how cultural pressures around the body have lethal consequences linked with heart problems, depression, and other serious afflictions. A new section titled “Why Are Young People Today So Depressed and Anxious?” examines the latest data on the mental health of today’s youth, exploring why adolescents today suffer more from mental illness than previous generations did.

Chapter 19 (Population, Urbanization, and the

Environment): [Chapter 19](#) contains data and research updates throughout. The “Population Analysis: Demography” section reports that the infant mortality rate in the Central African Republic has lowered by about 10 people out of 1,000 in 2021. The “Dynamics of Population Change” section includes an updated world population growth rate, which lowered a bit from 2019 to 2022. The “Rise of the Megalopolis” section includes additional data indicating that rates of Covid-related deaths grew to be higher in more rural areas than in highly populated cities like New York, even though the virus struck the big cities first. The section on the decline of rural America includes data from a new source on how the consistently declining rural populations surprisingly grew throughout 2020–2021, as the pandemic motivated people to move to less populated areas. In the “Suburbanization” section, additional data on the increase of racial and ethnic diversity are introduced, showing that minorities constituted almost half of all suburban residents in 2020. The section on climate change reports that since China surpassed the United States as the world’s largest emitter of greenhouse gases in 2005, it now accounts for 32 percent of the world’s total (about double the U.S. share). It also reports the worrisome fact that the years from 2015 to 2023 were eight of the hottest years ever recorded. The “Food Security” section includes new estimates that about 828 million people were undernourished as of 2022, especially in sub-

Saharan Africa, southeastern and western Asia, and Latin America. In the "Politics of Climate Change: National Action to Stop Global Warming" section, new coverage has been added on President Joe Biden's 2021 executive order to reenter the United States into the Paris Agreement, thereby recommitting America to significantly reducing its dependency on fossil fuels. The "Sustainable Development Section" includes new research showing how Russia's war on Ukraine has caused a natural gas shortage in much of Europe, consequently postponing some countries' pledge to phase out nuclear power. A new survey has been introduced in this same section, reporting that from 2018 to 2021 the percent of young adults who were worried about global warming increased twice as much as the percentage of Americans 65 and older who reported that they were worried. Finally, in the "Will Global Population Outstrip Resources?" section, additional information shows that a significant portion of all the refugees and asylum seekers in 2022 were Ukrainians fleeing violence from Russia, closing this section with yet another wake-up call from the facts.

Chapter 20 (Globalization in a Changing World): A new quiz and chapter opener asks readers who they think is the most popular music artist in the world today, to begin a conversation about the prevalence of cultural globalization in our world. Accordingly, the "Cultural Globalization" section has been reworked and expanded, with new coverage of how modern communications technology has intensified globalization over the last half century, accelerated by the invention of social media. It revisits the chapter introduction, using pop music as an example of cultures borrowing and sharing ideas. The majority of the "Environmental Globalization" section, as well as the entirety of the "Political Globalization" section, has been replaced with new material on how the advent of technology has lessened the impact of physical environments on societies. This rewritten "Environmental Globalization" section includes a fresh definition of the term, framing it as the process of human actions affecting our environment. This definition flows easily into the next section, "Political Globalization," which is defined as the influence of

international governmental institutions on the countries that ratify them. Expanded coverage appears on the European Union as a phenomenal example of member states relinquishing parts of their sovereignty to an elected overarching governing body. The section explains that the benefits of an arrangement such as the EU, especially the economic ones, provide enough incentive for countries to give up their economic independence.

STUDY AIDS

Every chapter in the Thirteenth Edition of *Introduction to Sociology* includes the following features:

- **Learning Objectives** are outlined at the start of the chapter and then recur throughout the main text of the chapter at the beginning of the relevant sections to promote active learning.
- **“Concept Checks”** throughout each chapter help students assess their understanding of the major topics in the chapter. In each “Concept Check,” questions range from those that assess reading comprehension to those that require more advanced critical thinking skills.
- **“Big Picture”** concept maps at the end of every chapter, which integrate the learning objectives, key terms, and “Concept Checks” into a handy and visually interesting study tool, serve as both a pre-reading guide to the chapter and a post-reading review.

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PART I The Study of Sociology

We live in a world today that is increasingly complex. What makes this possible? Why are the conditions of our lives so different from those of earlier times? How will our lives change in the future? To what extent are things that seem natural actually socially constructed? Does the individual matter? These types of questions led to the study of sociology. As you read this text, you will encounter examples from different people's lives that will help answer these important questions.

In [Chapter 1](#) , we explore the scope of sociology and learn what insights the field can bring, such as the development of a global perspective and an understanding of social change. Sociology is not a body of theories everyone agrees on. As in any complex field, the questions we raise allow for different answers. In this chapter, we compare and contrast differing theoretical traditions.

[Chapter 2](#) explores the tools of the trade and considers how sociologists do research. A number of basic methods of investigation are available to explore the social world. We must be sure that the information underlying sociological reasoning is as reliable and accurate as possible. The chapter examines the problems encountered when gathering such information and indicates how best to deal with them.

1 What Is Sociology?



The Russia-Ukraine war is similar to wars of earlier centuries because

1. **it is about borders.**
2. **it relies heavily on ground forces.**
3. **it is a war between sovereign nations.**
4. **of all of the above.**

TURN THE PAGE FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER.
