

# Contents

## Volume 1: Reason and the Rationalization of Society

Translator's Introduction	vii
Author's Preface	xli
I. Introduction: Approaches to the Problem of Rationality	1
1. "Rationality"—A Preliminary Specification	8
2. Some Characteristics of the Mythical and the Modern Ways of Understanding the World	43
3. Relations to the World and Aspects of Rationality in Four Sociological Concepts of Action	75
4. The Problem of Understanding Meaning in the Social Sciences	102
II. Max Weber's Theory of Rationalization	143
1. Occidental Rationalism	157
2. The Disenchantment of Religious-Metaphysical Worldviews and the Emergence of Modern Structures of Consciousness	186
3. Modernization as Societal Rationalization: The Role of the Protestant Ethic	216
4. The Rationalization of Law. Weber's Diagnosis of the Times	243
III. Intermediate Reflections: Social Action, Purposive Activity, and Communication	273
IV. From Lukacs to Adorno: Rationalization as Reification	339
1. Max Weber in the Tradition of Western Marxism	345
2. The Critique of Instrumental Reason	366
Notes	403
Index	459

# Contents

## Volume 2. Lifeworld and System: A Critique of Functionalist Reason

- V. The Paradigm Shift in Mead and Durkheim: From Purposive Activity to Communicative Action
  - 1. The Foundations of Social Science in the Theory of Communication
  - 2. The Authority of the Sacred and the Normative Background of Communicative Action
  - 3. The Rational Structure of the Linguistification of the Sacred
  
- VI. Intermediate Reflections: System and Lifeworld
  - 1. The Concept of the Lifeworld and the Hermeneutic Idealism of Interpretive Sociology
  - 2. The Uncoupling of System and Lifeworld
  
- VII. Talcott Parsons: Problems in the Construction of Social Theory
  - 1. From Normativistic Theory of Action to Systems Theory of Society
  - 2. The Development of Systems Theory
  - 3. The Theory of Modernity
  
- VIII. Concluding Reflections: From Parsons through Weber to Marx
  - 1. A Backward Glance: Weber's Theory of Modernity
  - 2. Marx and the Thesis of Internal Colonization
  - 3. The Tasks of a Critical Theory of Society