

Contents

	Preface	ix
	Introduction	1
part one	Conceptions of science	3
1	Positivist philosophy of science	9
	1 <i>The positivist view of explanation</i>	9
	2 <i>The positivist view of theories</i>	13
	3 <i>Theoretical and observational terms</i>	17
	4 <i>Positivism and 'the logic of science'</i>	22
2	Realist philosophy of science	27
	1 <i>The realist view of explanation</i>	27
	2 <i>The realist view of theories and models</i>	32
	3 <i>Realism and theoretical terms</i>	37
	4 <i>Some problems for realism</i>	40
3	Forms of conventionalism	46
	1 <i>Problems of falsification</i>	46
	2 <i>The problem of theory-neutrality</i>	50
	3 <i>Paradigms and anarchy: problems of rationality</i>	54
	4 <i>Conventionalism and instrumentalism</i>	60
part two	Conceptions of science in social theory	67
4	Sociology and positivism	71
	1 <i>Comtean positivism</i>	71

CONTENTS

	2	<i>Mill and Spencer</i>	75
	3	<i>Durkheimian positivism</i>	80
	4	<i>American positivism</i>	87
	5	Marx and realism	96
	1	<i>Introduction to Marx's method</i>	96
	2	<i>Historical materialism</i>	100
	3	<i>Surplus-value and the development of classes</i>	106
	4	<i>Pre-capitalist modes</i>	109
	5	<i>Abstraction and idealization</i>	111
	6	<i>Function and contradiction in modes of production</i>	114
	6	Structure and structuralism	119
	1	<i>Structural approaches</i>	119
	2	<i>'Structuralism'</i>	123
	3	<i>'Structuralism' and Marxism</i>	132
	4	<i>Criticisms of structural analysis</i>	137
part three		Meaning and ideology	141
	7	The explanation and understanding of social action	145
	1	<i>Weber and interpretive sociology</i>	145
	2	<i>Reasons, causes and action</i>	151
	3	<i>Positivism, realism, and the agent's viewpoint</i>	159
	4	<i>Meaning and understanding</i>	167
	8	Reification and realism	176
	1	<i>The Marxist concept of ideology</i>	176
	2	<i>Lukács's analysis of reification</i>	180
	3	<i>Berger and Pullberg's analysis of reification</i>	184
	4	<i>Reification and the critique of sociological orthodoxy</i>	187
	5	<i>Realism and reified social theory</i>	191
	9	Values, theory and reality	196
	1	<i>Weber and value-freedom</i>	196
	2	<i>Rationality and the explanation of beliefs</i>	204
	3	<i>Concepts and reality: the problem of Zande witchcraft</i>	212
	4	<i>Critical theory</i>	218

CONTENTS

Postscript	228
Notes	230
Bibliography	254
Index	273