
Contents

1. The Autopoiesis of Social Systems	1
2. Meaning as Sociology's Basic Concept	21
3. Complexity and Meaning	80
4. The Improbability of Communication	86
5. Modes of Communication and Society	99
6. The Individuality of the Individual: Historical Meanings and Contemporary Problems	107
7. Tautology and Paradox in the Self-Descriptions of Modern Society	123
8. Society, Meaning, and Religion— Based on Self-Reference	144
9. The State of the Political System	165
10. The World Society as a Social System	175
11. The Work of Art and the Self-Reproduction of Art	191
12. The Medium of Art	215
13. The Self-Reproduction of Law and Its Limits	227