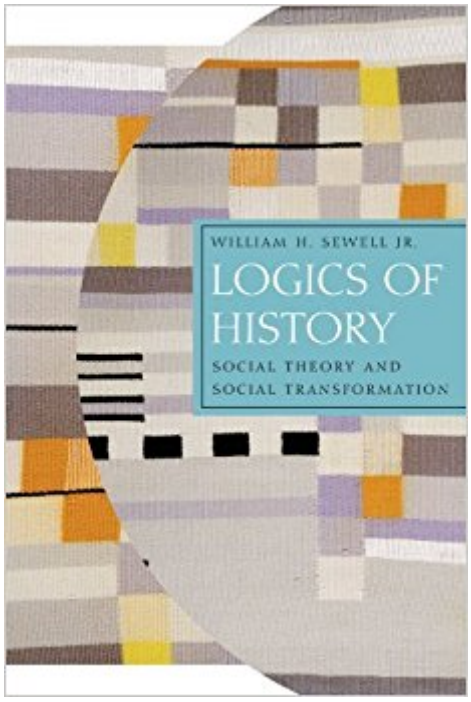
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Logics Of History: Social Theory And Social Transformation (Chicago Studies In Practices Of Meaning)



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Synopsis

While social scientists and historians have been exchanging ideas for a long time, they have never developed a proper dialogue about social theory. William H. Sewell Jr. observes that on questions of theory the communication has been mostly one way: from social science to history. Logics of History argues that both history and the social sciences have something crucial to offer each other. While historians do not think of themselves as theorists, they know something social scientists do not: how to think about the temporalities of social life. On the other hand, while social scientistsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ treatments of temporality are usually clumsy, their theoretical sophistication and penchant for structural accounts of social life could offer much to historians.Renowned for his work at the crossroads of history, sociology, political science, and anthropology, Sewell argues that only by combining a more sophisticated understanding of historical time with a concern for larger theoretical questions can a satisfying social theory emerge. In Logics of History, he reveals the shape such an engagement could take, some of the topics it could illuminate, and how it might affect both sides of the disciplinary divide.

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Customer Reviews

Logics of History is a collection of essays by one of the leading voices in the re-emergence of historical sociology as a central locus of theoretical production in sociology. Sewell is readable, engaging, and creatively brings to life his vast historical research through a series of important statements on the role of history.Included are a number of interesting chapters explicating his concept of "eventful history" and how historical moments represent and bring into being important structural changes. Also included is his ground-breaking piece on the "duality of structure" that, in echoing Anthony Giddens theory of "structuration", attempts to find a via media in the structure/agency debate. Logics is an important and compelling collection.That being said, social scientists and students of historical sociology be warned: while the book does include a few new pieces, the majority of essays are previously published journal articles adapted for the book. While this doesn’t detract from the quality of the book, it does mean that many of the most significant chapters are not new.

This is a refreshing book about the relationship between historical studies and the various branches of social science. The author discusses the study of social phenomena from a variety of cross-disciplinary perspectives, utilizing clearly argued examples rather than abstract reasoning. He has many interesting ideas which go beyond the limitations of specialized paradigms.The book requires some familiarity with contemporary social science since the discussion often revolves around key terms such as "structure" and "culture". But aside from that requirement, the text is quite accessible even for an interested layman.My one point of complaint is that the chapters are a bit disunited. Apparently most of them have been written as separate research papers and are published together here with minor modifications. There are some interconnecting themes between the chapters but there could have been many more if the book had been written as one project from start to finish.Even so this book is definitely a thought-provoking and insightful piece of work and I recommend it to anyone with a general interest in history and social science.

For my History seminar class. A little bit hard to read fast for a foreigner like me...

quickly. I have bought several Bread products recently as I have started to make homemade bread. This product was reasonably priced and does an excellent job slicing our bread thick or thin. A buyer should not be fearful that this product is below par - very good product at a good price! Don’t be afraid, just order the product and enjoy your bread. Very well. i need it to change , good .

Perfect ,,, a must have reference.

An interesting thing about academics in the social sciences is how many of them spend entire careers trying to understand the relationship between History and Social Theory without ever understanding that History is Social Theory. Social Scientists are Mathematicians who would like to be Historians. No wonder their students are confused.

By perfecting and systematizing structuration theory and advocating a sociology of the historical event, William Sewell has profoundly shaped and renewed sociology in our time.

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