

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Translator's Note</i>	xv
I. Society as a Social System	I
1.1. The Sociological Theory of Society	I
1.2. Preliminary Remarks on Methodology	13
1.3. Meaning	18
1.4. The Distinction Between System and Environment	28
1.5. Society as a Comprehensive Social System	40
1.6. Operational Closure and Structural Couplings	49
1.7. Cognition	68
1.8. Ecological Problems	73
1.9. Complexity	77
1.10. World Society	83
1.11. Demands on Rationality	99
2. Communication Media	113
2.1. Medium and Form	113
2.2. Dissemination Media and Success Media	120
2.3. Language	123
2.4. Morality and the Secrets of Religion	138
2.5. Writing	150
2.6. Printing	174
2.7. Electronic Media	180

2.8. Dissemination Media: Summary	187
2.9. Symbolically Generalized Communication Media, 1: Function	190
2.10. Symbolically Generalized Communication Media, 2: Differentiation	199
2.11. Symbolically Generalized Communication Media, 3: Structures	214
2.12. Symbolically Generalized Communication Media, 4: Self-Validation	236
2.13. Moral Communication	239
2.14. Effects on the Evolution of the Societal System	245
3. Evolution	251
3.1. Creation, Planning, Evolution	251
3.2. Systems-Theoretical Basis	261
3.3. The Neo-Darwinian Theory of Evolution	272
3.4. The Variation of Elements	275
3.5. Selection Through Media	284
3.6. The Restabilization of Systems	292
3.7. Differentiation of Variation, Selection, and Restabilization	300
3.8. Evolutionary Advances	305
3.9. Technology	312
3.10. The Evolution of Ideas	324
3.11. The Evolution of Subsystems	336
3.12. Evolution and History	343
3.13. Memory	348
<i>Notes</i>	359
<i>Index</i>	455