

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	7
INTRODUCTORY	
CHAPTER I	
GENERAL ORIENTATION	
Objective.	15
Biographical	16
Method of Approach	21
Previous Studies	23
Thesis Stated	25
CHAPTER II	
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	
The New World of Experience: Discoveries, Scientific Advance, Economic and Political Changes	28
The New Mind: Bacon, Descartes, Newton and their Influence on Social Thought	33
Individualistic and Speculative Tendencies of the Eighteenth Cen- tury: Reason and the Order of Nature	39
PART I	
ANALYSIS OF FERGUSON'S WRITINGS FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT	
A. THE FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH	
CHAPTER III	
THE FACT AND FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIETY	
The Fact of Society	47
Foundations of Society: Necessity.	49
Inborn Tendencies	50
Habit.	52

	PAGE
The Individual as Societally Determined	53
Society and Individual Perfection	55
Need of a Societal Approach to the Study of Man	56

CHAPTER IV

SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL CONTINUITY

The Socio-Historic Process as a Process of Change	57
Continuity in Social Change	62
Interest in Social Origins and in Historical Evolution	63

CHAPTER V

THE NATURE OF HUMAN SOCIETY AS CULTURE

Instinct and Habit	66
"The Conditioned Response"	70
Behavior Patterns of the Many	71
The Function of Habit in Social Life	73
Differentiation of Group Ways	75
Attack on Romantic Conception of State of Nature and Nature Peoples	77

B. SOCIAL EVOLUTION

CHAPTER VI

THE NATURE AND COURSE OF SOCIAL EVOLUTION

The Trend of the Evolution of Society: Savagery	80
Barbarism	83
"Civility"	84
General Tendencies	84
The Nature of Social Evolution: Motive Forces	86
Invention and Borrowing	89
Evolution of Language as Example	90
Summary.	93

CHAPTER VII

FACTORS IN SOCIAL EVOLUTION

Racial Differences	94
Climate and Situation	95
The Role of Conflict in Society	98
Institutions Viewed as Dynamic Factors	106

TABLE OF CONTENTS

II

	PAGE
Techniques and the Division of Labor	107
Dynamic Aspects of Human Nature: Animal Drives; Union and Division; Active Tendencies; "Perfection"	111
The Function of Intelligence	115
Moral Factors	117
Summary	117

C. SOCIETY IN ITS STATIC ASPECTS

CHAPTER VIII

THE ORGANIZATION OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Kinds of Societies	119
Bases of Social Organization	121
Kinds of Social Ties	123
Psychic Factors in the Organization of Human Relationships	125

CHAPTER IX

LANGUAGE, SCIENCE, ART, LITERATURE, RELIGION IN RELATION TO SOCIETY

Language	129
Science	131
Art	132
Literature	134
Religion	136

D. THE MEANING OF SOCIETY AND THE METHODS OF ITS STUDY

CHAPTER X

THE COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL ARTS IN RELATION TO PROGRESS AND DECAY

Wealth and Society.	139
Origin, Forms and Function of the State	141
The State and Economic Life	144
General Policy	145
Progress and Decay of Societies.	147

CHAPTER XI

ULTIMATE VALUES IN HUMAN SOCIETY

Society Defined.	153
The Individual and Society	156
Individualism or Socialism?	159

CHAPTER XII

PAGE

METHODOLOGICAL SUMMARY

General Assumptions: The Philosophy of Nature	164
Ferguson's Conception of Scientific Method	166
Limitations and Caution in Application of Method	170
Methods of Historical Reconstruction	173
Methods of Sociological Interpretation.	176
Summary.	179

PART II

FERGUSON'S PLACE IN THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL
THEORY

CHAPTER XIII

ORIGINS AND ANTECEDENTS

Acknowledged Influences	183
General Foundations: Physical Science, Mechanistic Interpretations, Social Philosophy	185
Antecedents of Particular Teachings.	186
Origin of Central Conceptions: Societal Solidarity	190
Psychological Interpretations	191
Evolution.	193

CHAPTER XIV

AMONG HIS CONTEMPORARIES

David Hume	197
Adam Smith	205
William F. Robertson	209
Priestley, Kames and Dunbar	211
Gilbert Stuart	214
John Millar	217
Miscellaneous	223
Edmund Burke	224

CHAPTER XV

AMONG HIS CONTEMPORARIES (*Continued*)

Generalization: A Vigorous Intellectual Movement	227
Interest in Scientific Methodology.	228
Interest in Nature and Origins of Society	229

TABLE OF CONTENTS

13

	PAGE
The Psychological Approach	229
"Theoretical History"	230
"Philosophical History" or Historical Idealism	232
Summary of Ferguson in Relation to this Movement.	235

CHAPTER XVI

FERGUSON'S RELATION TO THE CHIEF TENDENCIES OF ANGLO-AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY

Influence on Contemporaries and Posterity.	238
Surmised Causes of his "eclipse".	240
"Boundary Lines"; The Quantitative Method	242
Sociology, Social Reform and Social Policy	243
Ferguson and the Social Physicists	244
Ferguson and Psychological Sociology	247
Theories of Social Evolution: Ferguson and Spencer	248
Ferguson and the Historico-Cultural Approach.	255
CONCLUSION	257
BIBLIOGRAPHY	259
INDEX	263

