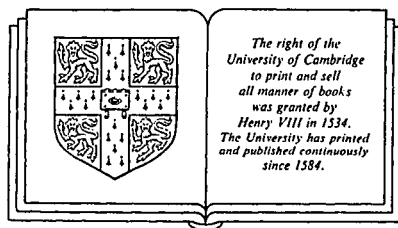


Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-28890-3 - Patrons, Clients and Friends: Interpersonal Relations and the
Structure of Trust in Society
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Patrons, clients and friends

*Interpersonal relations and the
structure of trust in society*

S. N. EISENSTADT
and
L. RONIGER



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge
London New York New Rochelle
Melbourne Sydney

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Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022, USA
296 Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park, Melbourne 3206, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1984

First published 1984

Library of Congress catalogue card number: 83-26333

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Eisenstadt, S. N.

Patrons, clients and friends – (Themes
in the social sciences)

1. Interpersonal relations

I. Title II. Roniger, L.

III. Series

302 HM132

ISBN 0 521 24687 3

ISBN 0 521 28890 8 Pbk

Transferred to digital printing 1999

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Preface

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The origins of this book go far back to the article on 'Ritualized Personal Relations' which I published in 1956 in *Man*, as an outgrowth of the comparative studies of age groups and youth movements published the same year in *From Generation to Generation*. For many years after that, while I followed the literature on friendship and interpersonal relations, it was not at the centre of my attention. In 1970 the invitation of Professor E. Leyton to contribute to the volume on Friendship which was based on the colloquium held on the theme at the Memorial University of Newfoundland gave me the first opportunity to rethink some of the theoretical problems involved in these phenomena, and my preliminary musings on these problems were published in the volume of the Symposium.<sup>1</sup>

In the meantime I have become very much interested, as an outgrowth of comparative studies of modernisation, in the analysis of patron–client relations – becoming more and more convinced that such relations are a sign not just of underdevelopment, but of special types of social formations closely related to specific types of cultural orientations.

These problems were analysed in great detail in an inter-disciplinary seminar which I conducted together with Dr Yael Azmon in 1974/5 within the framework of seminars on comparative civilisations at the Hebrew University. One of the major themes worked out in that seminar was that the development of patron–client relations is very closely related to the structure of trust in society; its relevance to the study of interpersonal relations was thus highlighted and many of the assumptions of the earlier works were made explicit. Interestingly enough this work brought this study close to some of the major works of my teacher, the late Martin Buber, especially his work on *I and Thou*.

It is the explication of these assumptions that, in a comparative analytical framework, constitutes the focus of this book.

Luis Roniger participated in the 1974/5 seminar, and has developed his own interest around the study of patron–client relations in the

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*Preface*

Mediterranean and Latin American societies. Already in 1975 we had started to cooperate in the comparative study of patron-client relations, publishing several papers on the subject.<sup>2</sup> As a result of this cooperation, we have undertaken to prepare this book together; it thus constitutes a common venture in every sense of the word.

The research on which this work is based has been undertaken within the framework of the Unit on Comparative Civilizations and Modernization of the Truman Research Institute of the Hebrew University. Large parts of this research have been supported by a grant from the Volkswagen Foundation.

We should like to thank Professor R. Paine for very useful critical remarks on parts of the manuscripts which he made during his visit to Jerusalem in the spring of 1982, as well as to Esther Sass for her superb editorial work and to Morris Levy who typed most efficiently the greatest part of our manuscript.

*The Hebrew University  
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