

CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| | <i>Introduction</i> | page viii |
| I | What is theory? | 1 |
| II | The classical attempt at synthesis: Talcott Parsons | 20 |
| III | Parsons on the road to normativist functionalism | 43 |
| IV | Parsons and the elaboration of normativist functionalism | 68 |
| V | Neo-utilitarianism | 94 |
| VI | Interpretive approaches (1): symbolic interactionism | 123 |
| VII | Interpretive approaches (2): ethnomethodology | 150 |
| VIII | Conflict sociology and conflict theory | 174 |
| IX | Habermas and critical theory | 199 |
| X | Habermas' 'theory of communicative action' | 222 |
| XI | Niklas Luhmann's radicalization of functionalism | 249 |
| XII | Anthony Giddens' theory of structuration and the new British sociology of power | 281 |
| XIII | The renewal of Parsonianism and modernization theory | 308 |
| XIV | Structuralism and poststructuralism | 339 |
| XV | Between structuralism and theory of practice: The cultural sociology of Pierre Bourdieu | 371 |
| XVI | French anti-structuralists (Cornelius Castoriadis, Alain Touraine and Paul Ricoeur) | 401 |
| XVII | Feminist social theories | 432 |
| XVIII | A crisis of modernity? New diagnoses (Ulrich Beck, Zygmunt Bauman, Robert Bellah, and the debate between liberals and communitarians) | 463 |
| XIX | Neo-pragmatism | 500 |
| XX | How things stand | 529 |
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 561 |
| | <i>Author index</i> | 592 |
| | <i>Subject index</i> | 599 |