5-1927

Recent Developments in the Social Sciences

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**Recommended Citation**

Sayre, Paul L. (1927) "Recent Developments in the Social Sciences," *Indiana Law Journal: Vol. 2: Iss. 8, Article 9.*

Available at: https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ilj/vol2/iss8/9

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believe that everything should be changed and those who believe that nothing should be changed cannot work together on particular undertakings apart from their general theories. Professor Weatherly says that his own outlook on social progress "is pluralistic and humanistic." No doubt it is; and probably it is positivistic also in that he looks out on conditions and finds that each theory or each explanation may have some truth but that it falls short of solving the whole problem.

Surely the book is excellent not only for the student in the field of Sociology but for the general reader who wants some comment pro and con upon the various factors in social progress that are constantly discussed.


This is an extraordinary book in that it attempts to give in a single small volume (400 pages) a summary of recent developments in six of the various social sciences—Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Cultural Geography, and History. Surely it is a rather large order. In order to accomplish the purpose the writers must be conceded great freedom in condensation and in generalization of their material. No detailed treatment is possible.

Perhaps it is fair to say that only a specialist in these several fields could give a fair estimate of whether this generalized process has been carried out in an accurate and scholarly manner. Thus the present reviewer is not qualified to pass judgment on the content of the book. We notice, however, that the social sciences mentioned above of which the book treats are discussed by Professors Ellwood, Wissler, Gault, Sauer, Clark, Merriam, and Barnes. In their respective fields this is a distinguished group of men. The general reader can see that the treatment is readable, informative and apparently fair and scholarly in its development.

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