

CHAPTER 1

PARSONS' THEORY OF SOCIETAL EVOLUTION, 1

The Theory of Action,	2
The Differentiation of Action Systems,	4
What Is a Society?	6
The Cybernetic Hierarchy,	8
Evolutionary Breakthroughs,	10
The Inclusive Societal Community of Modern Societies,	18
Conclusion,	19
Addendum to Chapter 1,	20
References,	23

CHAPTER 2

PRIMITIVE SOCIETIES:

The Emergence of Social Stratification, 24

Organic Evolution,	25
The Components of Primitive Society,	28

The Primitive Society of Aboriginal Australia, 37
The Transition to the Advanced Primitive Type, 38
Types of Advanced Primitive Societies, 44
Conclusion, 47

CHAPTER 3

ARCHAIC SOCIETIES:

Legitimation by a Literate Priesthood, 50

Ancient Egypt, 53

The Mesopotamian Empires, 63

Conclusion, 69

CHAPTER 4

THE HISTORIC EMPIRES:

Further Differentiation of the Society
from Its Legitimate Cultural System, 77

China, 73

India, 80

The Roman Empire, 90

Conclusion, 98

CHAPTER 5

CULTURAL LEGACIES FOR LATER SOCIETIES:

The Hebrew and Greek Concepts of a Moral Order, 99

Israel, 100

Greece, 107

Conclusion, 773

CHAPTER 6

THE RELIGIOUS LEGITIMATION OF SECULAR SOCIETY, 715

Early Christianity, 776

Medieval Society, 121

The Differentiation of the European System, 725

Renaissance and Reformation, 729
Conclusion, 733

CHAPTER 7

THE EMERGENCE OF NATIONAL COMMUNITIES, 747

The Northwest, 745
Conclusion, 757

CHAPTER 8

FURTHER DIFFERENTIATIONS IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS, 767

National Differentiation, 767
The Industrial Revolution, 764
The Democratic Revolution, 768
Conclusion, 773

CHAPTER 9

THE CENTRAL PROBLEM OF MODERN SOCIETIES:

Integration, 782

The Structure of the Societal Community, 783
The Educational Revolution and the
Contemporary Phase of Modernization, 790
Pattern Maintenance: The Increasing Differentiation
of the Pattern Maintenance Subsystem
from the Societal Community, 793
The Increasing Differentiation of the Polity
from the Societal Community, 796
The Increasing Differentiation of Economy
and Societal Community, 200
Conclusion, 207

CHAPTER 10

THE DIFFERENTIATED SYSTEM OF MODERN SOCIETIES, 275

The Soviet Union, 276
The New Europe, 227

Modernization of Non-Western Societies,	226
Conclusion,	228

CHAPTER 11

CONTINUING EVOLUTION, 230

The Trend of Evolution:

Increased Adaptive Capacity, 230

The System of Modern Societies, 236

Conclusion, 240

SELECTED REFERENCES, 242

GLOSSARY, 249

INDEX, 253