

# *Quarterly Journal of Ideology*

*A Critique of Conventional Wisdom*

*An electronic journal at:*

*[www.lsus.edu/la/journals/ideology](http://www.lsus.edu/la/journals/ideology)*

---

## **Mappers of Society, The Lives, Times, And Legacies of Great Sociologists**

**Ronald Fernandez**

**Westport, CT: Praeger, 2003.**

**Review by:**

**Donald Pickens**

**University of North Texas**

---

Some books are handy. And Fernandez, Professor of Sociology at Central Connecticut State University has written one. His subject is the best part of sociology, the history of social thought. His method is a light but with a sincere touch. He has a graceful way of relating a current event to a particular social theorist and the method works. The book therefore can be read with profit by new students and it is a fine review for “old professors.”

The coverage is wide but the bibliography is a bit thin. His eight sociologists are Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, George Herbert Mead, Thorstein Veblen, Erving Goffman, and Peter Berger. His valuations are generous and kind. It was difficult to find his favorite but I think it was Simmel who life and career made him the outsider’s outsider. Simmel wrote the “book” on alienation in the industrialized city. The alienated individual has become a cultural icon in contemporary scholarship and in the popular culture.

Those men were not cheer leaders for capitalist development. Their over all concern was with community and capitalism has not been kind to those who do not celebrate the virtues of the market. In that regard, the reader should see Jerry Z. Muller, *The Mind and the Market Capitalism in Early Modern Thought* (2002). It is very interesting how many theorists, etc. were critical of the emerging modern order. *Mappers of Society*, therefore covers the discontent among intellectuals who have gone before.

This book is what it is: a handy treatment of some very important thinkers about the contemporary world came to be. It should have many readers.