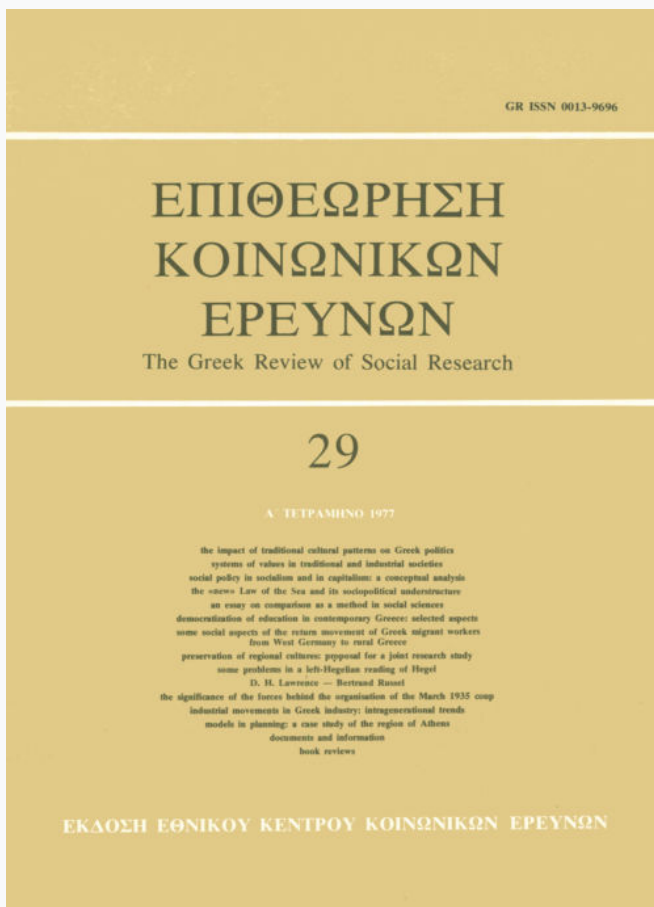


The Greek Review of Social Research

Vol 29 (1977)

29 A'



A dictionary of the social sciences

Hugo F. Reading

doi: [10.12681/grsr.344](https://doi.org/10.12681/grsr.344)

Copyright © 1977, Hugo F. Reading



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

To cite this article:

Reading, H. F. (1977). A dictionary of the social sciences. *The Greek Review of Social Research*, 29, 183.
<https://doi.org/10.12681/grsr.344>

accept the principles and conclusions of the Kantian teaching. The *PhG* teems with slashing attacks against its hopelessly analytic spirit. But in any case Hegel recognised that Kant, despite the fact that he made it *ex hypothesi* impossible to carry out the project of subject-object unification, did, nevertheless, posit it as an inescapable yearning of pure reason, an «endless task» necessarily engendered in the course of analysing the dynamics of the «transcendental unity» of the Ego.

Kant stubbornly based his revolutionary conception on a strictly subjective basis, severing «our» (limited) understanding from the objective laws governing the universe «in itself». Hegel saw it as his vocation to suppress this spurious separation, to reunite consciousness and its object in a system of integral reason, which is not an impossible Ought but a tangible spiritual reality accessible to the individual by means of adequate philosophical instruction.

The *PhG* is precisely such a pedagogy, an attempt to reorient the average human being away from the abstract analytical principles of formal logic that have up to now shaped his mode of thought towards a higher intellectual existence: he is encouraged to burst the dams of tautology in order to inundate the in itself, and to receive, in turn, the full richness of a rationalised cosmos in his soul. This is a *περιπαγωγή ψυχής* in the most eminent Platonic sense. This is the supreme goal that the *PhG* announces, a goal going far beyond the limited aspiration to a rational political order. Its essence is thoroughly gnosological, the outcome of an immanent criticism of the transcendental principles of Kant, a spiritual consummation internal to the German idealist mind.

The driving anticipation of such a completed system of reason is the key emotion permeating the *PhG*, and it finds its highest expression in that passionate masterpiece, its *Preface*, a text that is markedly de-emphasised in *Freedom and Independence*. The young philosopher is greatly excited for having discovered the absolute rules, which will now inevitably, as he sees it, push man along to a perfect understanding of his existence in a transparent universe. The elegy for the lost harmony of Hellas has thus been overcome by a doxology to dialectical reason conquering the elusive absolute on the basis of the rule of synopticity, which again was first enunciated by Plato. The passionate images of the *Preface*, as well as the rapturous concluding lines of the *PhG*, create the emotional atmosphere for that leap of human subjectivity into the infinity of the cosmic One. The elegy to the Hellenic past is *aufgehoben*, in the strictest Hegelian sense, by the fervent paean to the German-Hegelian future.

Hegel's political insights must be firmly placed within this metaphysical scheme. Only thus can we effectively combat an ever-present temptation to elevate the political moment to supreme dominance in the system. Prof. Shklar's preoccupation with

the politics of the *PhG* may have made a bias in this direction unavoidable, as evidenced by her unquestioned readiness to identify Hegel's «Volksgeist» with Montesquieu's «esprit des lois» with its predominantly objective, political flavour. But Hegel's political concepts, even his powerful state as constructed in the *Philosophy of Right* of 1820, participate in a higher metaphysical movement, whose telos is not the self-subsistent perfection of a rational political community, but a spiritual world of cosmic reconciliation based on the healing principles of absolute reason.

A DICTIONARY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

I am most gratified by the review of my book *A dictionary of the social sciences* published by Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd and I appreciate being given the hospitality of your columns for answering the two major objections raised by Helen Papachristou.

The first objection is that I omitted a few but important terms such as «capitalism», «socialism», «liberalism», «Marxism».

I was forced to establish criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of terms. As the social sciences have survived the Wittgensteinian onslaught of P.G. Winch (1958), the *Positivismusstreit* of the 1960's, and repeated attacks on their scientificity, it is important to try to establish law-like generalizations which employ terms which are rigorously defined. It was clear that the terms enumerated were too vague for this purpose and they were therefore rejected. The term «Marxism» was rejected because Marxism is a *Weltanschauung* and is broader than sociology.

The second objection is that certain writers who should have been attributed to certain definitions were omitted.

These omissions were deliberate and there were good reasons for them. Where a term or a concept was in common use and was used by many leading writers, it was considered misleading to mention the classic author. In many cases a semantic shift had occurred since the term's introduction. Many forms of alienation have been distinguished since Karl Marx's use of the term, for example, by C. Wright Mills. G. Lukacs used the term «reification» not in the sense used by Bidney and by many philosophers of science, but in the sense of false consciousness. The term «imitation» is in wide use by psychologists and I did not wish to associate it with Tarde's theory of imitation. A lot of work has been done since the time of Adorno, by Eysenck amongst others, on the authoritarian personality and various types of authoritarian personality have been distinguished.

HUGO F. READING

ΕΠΙΘΕΩΡΗΣΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΩΝ ΕΡΕΥΝΩΝ

*The Greek Review of Social
Research*

Έκδοτης: Έθνικόν Κέντρον
Κοινωνικῶν Έρευνῶν (ΝΠΔΔ)
Σοφοκλέους 1, Άθήνα 122

Έτος 8ο. Τεύχος 29
Α' τετράμηνο 1977

Φωτοστοιχειοθεσία:
ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΕΠΕ
Κεραμεικού 23

επιμέλεια εκδόσεως
Τμήμα Δημοσιεύσεων
Διευθύνσεως Ένημερώσεως του
Έθνικού Κέντρου Κοινωνικών Έρευνῶν

ΤΙΜΗ: Δρχ. 200

συνδρομές εσωτερικού. (3 τεύχη):
για ιδιώτες Δρχ. 500,
για σπουδαστές Δρχ. 400,
για νομικά πρόσωπα, τράπεζες
όργανισμούς Δρχ. 600,

Price: \$ 10

one year's subscription:
individuals \$ 18
students \$ 15
banks, organizations, etc. \$ 20

ή αναδημοσίευση τής ύλης του
περιοδικού επιτρέπεται μόνο με
άδεια του διευθυντού συντάξεως