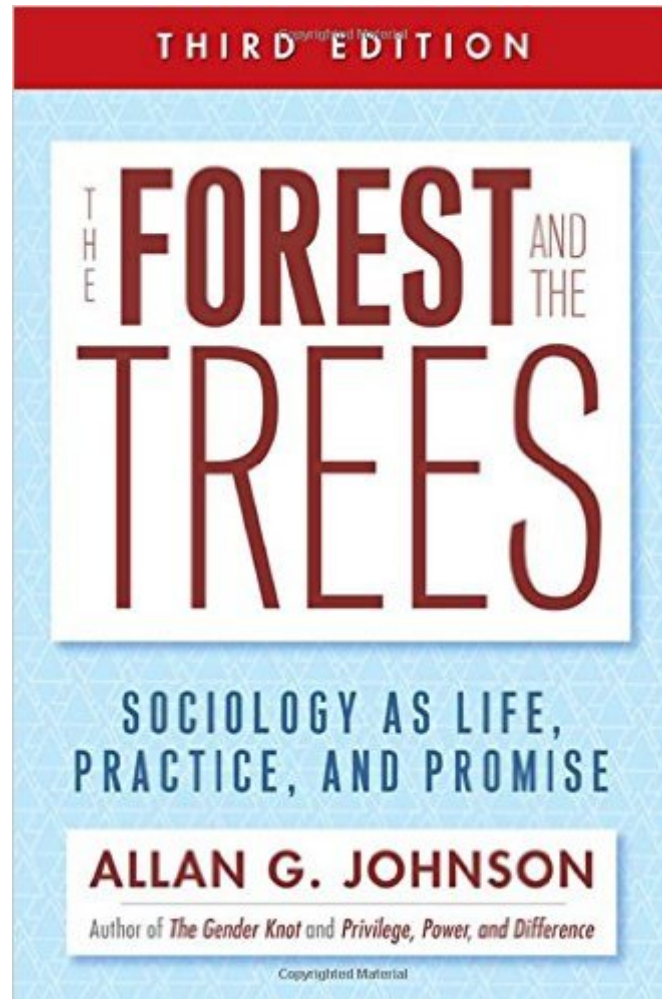


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The Forest And The Trees: Sociology As Life, Practice, And Promise 3rd Ed.



Synopsis

New Third Edition! If sociology could teach everyone just one thing, what would it be? *The Forest and the Trees* is one sociologist's response to the hypothetical-the core insight with the greatest potential to change how people see the world and themselves in relation to it. Â This Third Edition features:

- * Updated key references, data, resources, and examples, from global warming, Obama's election, and gay marriage to transgender and the Occupy Movement
- * A glossary of terms
- * The short essays in Chapter 6, framed around the power of sociology, dig beneath easy and popular understandings to reveal what lies beneath
- * An additional analysis of how men's violence is made invisible even though most violence is perpetrated by men
- * Chapter 7's focus on sociology as a worldview with an analysis of the origins of white privilege

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At the beginning of this book the author states that they think sociology has a strong moral dimension. Personally I prefer the alternative view that as a social science it attempts to explain parts of human behavior, and that an explanation is not the same as a moral value judgement. Ultimately because of the is-ought problem one can use any implicit moral premises and in a logically consistent way moralize anything in terms of their biases. By the second chapter Jonhson's biases become clear, he states out right that people have nothing to show for growth under capitalism. The only evidence he offers is a citation, the book being cited pertaining to the apparent decline of leisure in America. Conveniently I am taking both a sociology and an economics course and my economics text offered an alternative explanation to the alleged decline despite

economic growth. Americans prefer to consume more goods and services rather than work less, it shows this by comparing America to European countries with comparable growth showing that hours worked remained relatively constant, growing in some years, in the US as consumption went up and consumption remained relatively constant in Europe as hours worked went down. Also importantly the book states this is one possible explanation among others rather than the only one. Contrast this to *Forest and the Trees* where Johnson states his assertion as an absolute with no argument or evidence beyond the citation even though the idea that different cultures would have different preferences regarding consumption and labor would be equally consistent, if not more consistent, with what he's trying to tell the reader about cultures and how they reinforce social values.

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