

THE PROMISE OF POSTSTRUCTURALIST SOCIOLOGY

Marginalized Peoples
and the Problem
of Knowledge

CLAYTON W. DUMONT JR.

*A postmodern critique of
sociology's presuppositions.*

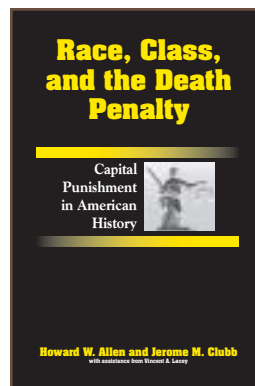
In this fresh look at the serious challenges posed to sociology by poststructuralist philosophy, Clayton W. Dumont Jr. maintains that disempowered, marginalized peoples have much to gain from a poststructuralist interrogation of sociology's philosophical and theological presuppositions. He argues that debates among American sociologists in the 1980s and 1990s over the value of difficult poststructuralist writings failed to examine cultural assumptions rooted in the discipline's extended Greek and Christian inheritances. Writing in an accessible style, the author situates complex poststructuralist ideas in tangible examples drawn from everyday life. The book concludes with analyses of the heated political conflict surrounding the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 and affirmative action programs, illustrating the promise of increased political efficacy and civic responsibility of a poststructuralist-informed sociology.

"The author brings an original and provocative perspective to the debate surrounding sociology and postmodernism, and has written a unique book in its ambition, scope, and deliberately personal dimension. He illustrates difficult ideas with many easy-to-understand examples, and he inserts himself into the writing so that the reader feels as if in a conversation or dialogue. Students will feel the author's presence and be engaged."

— Steven Seidman, author of *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today, Third Edition*

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RACE, CLASS, AND THE DEATH PENALTY

Capital Punishment
in American History

HOWARD W. ALLEN AND
JEROME M. CLUBB,
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM
VINCENT A. LACEY

*Examines both the legal
and illegal uses of the death
penalty in American history.*

In *Race, Class, and the Death Penalty*, Howard W. Allen and Jerome M. Clubb examine historical trends in the use of capital punishment in the United States. Employing empirical data, the authors explore how frequently the death penalty has been used and how its frequency of use has changed, where the death penalty was used most often, the offenses charged, and the characteristics of the executed. Not surprisingly, their findings indicate that minority groups—particularly African Americans and those of lower social and economic status in general—have been executed in disproportionate numbers. The authors conclude that while the use of the death penalty has progressively declined, and the range of capital offenses has narrowed, disparities in the use of capital punishment between social groups and regions that appeared in the colonial period have persisted into the twenty-first century.

"The long-standing practice of capital punishment in this country has been controversial almost from its inception, and the controversy has been particularly intense in recent decades. A careful analysis of the empirical facts of our historical practices is tremendously important, and the authors do a great service in collecting and assimilating many partial sources into what looks to be one of the most comprehensive and definitive treatments of empirical information on the use of capital punishment in the United States throughout its history." — Carol S. Steiker, coauthor of *Criminal Law and Its Processes: Cases and Materials, Eighth Edition*

HOWARD W. ALLEN is Professor Emeritus of History at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. **JEROME M. CLUBB** is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Michigan. Both Allen and Clubb have written several books, including their coedited volume *Electoral Change and Stability in American Political History*.

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