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| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Cover -- Contents -- Case studies -- World in focus -- Contributors -- Preface -- Guided tour -- How to use this book -- Acknowledgements -- Part 1 Introduction to the sociological imagination -- Chapter 1 Sociological thinking -- Key issues -- Introduction -- The sociological perspective -- The sociological perspective in practice -- Using sociology -- The origins of sociology -- Contemporary sociology -- The individual and society -- The power of culture -- A sociological look at celebrity culture -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 2 Sociological theories -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Sociological perspectives -- Classical sociological theories -- Contemporary sociological theories -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 3 Sociological research -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Why do sociologists do research? -- Defining sociological research -- The foundations of sociological research -- Methodologies: how to produce sociological knowledge -- Methods of research -- A multi-method approach -- Feminist research -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Part 2 Introduction to socialdivisions -- Chapter 4 Social stratification and class -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Systems of stratification -- Explanations of stratification -- Theoretical concepts of class -- Operationalizing the concept of class -- The class structure in modern |

society -- 'Class is dead -- long live class' -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 5 Gender -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Explaining gender differences -- Sex and sexuality -- Representing gender: mass media and popular culture -- Gender and the body. Gendered labour -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 6 'Race', ethnicity and nationalism -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Unpacking 'race', ethnicity and nationalism -- Concepts and theories -- From theory to the 'real world' -- Nationalism -- Migration, settlement and multiculturalism -- Conclusion -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 7 Age -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Age and social relationships -- Age and social stratification -- Age and discrimination -- Ways of understanding age -- The life course perspective -- Age as a cultural construction -- Social construction of childhood -- Cultural construction of childhood -- Social construction of old age -- Cultural construction of old age -- Old age and childhood in Britain -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 8 Disability -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Explanations for our views -- Towards a sociology of impairment or disability -- Identity and disability -- Disability and social exclusion -- Challenges to the social model of disability -- Understanding disability in the context of welfare policy -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 9 Global divisions -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Definitions: the majority and minority worlds -- Global inequalities -- Sociology of development -- Globalization -- Gender relations in the majority world -- Childhoods in the majority world -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Part 3 Introduction to understanding social life -- Chapter 10 Environment -- Key issues -- Introduction.
What is environmental sociology? -- Historical views of nature -- Modern environmentalism -- Climate change -- Environmental sociology: an 'absent presence'? -- Environmental sociology: new beginnings -- Risk society -- Ecological modernization -- The social construction of environmental issues -- Challenges from the grass roots -- The way forward? Sustainable development and environmental justice -- Environmental sociology: beyond an 'absent presence' -- Mobilities and the environment -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 11 Families and relationships -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Defining families and households -- Changes in family structure -- Intimate relationships -- Families and social problems -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 12 Work -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Marx and the labour process within capitalism -- Braverman and Labour and Monopoly Capital -- The organization of work -- Industrialism and de-industrialization -- The coming of post-industrial society? -- Fordism and mass production -- Post-Fordism and flexibility -- The labour market -- Unemployment -- Trade unions -- Working at home? -- The globalization of economic life -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 13 Health, illness and the body -- Key issues -- Introduction -- The social construction of medical knowledge -- Sectors of health care -- Experiencing illness -- The body, technology and change -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles --

Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 14  Crime and punishment -- Key issues -- Introduction -- The sociology of crime -- The sociology of punishment -- Summary -- Links.
Further reading -- Key journal and journal article -- Websites -- Activities -- Part 4 Introduction to knowledge and power -- Chapter 15 Education -- Key issues -- Introduction -- Education systems -- Sociological explanations and theories about education -- Sociological approaches to education policy -- Social groups and education -- Gender inequalities ineducation -- Ethnicity and education -- Special educational needs -- Multiple disadvantages in education -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 16 Religion -- Key issues -- Introduction -- The development of the sociology of religion -- Religion today: back on the agenda -- Methods for studying religion -- Religion in classical sociology -- Secularization -- Understanding religious organizations -- Fundamentalism -- Alternative New Age spiritualities -- Gender and religion -- Conclusion -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Chapter 17 The mass media -- Key issues -- Introduction -- The development of the mass media -- External influences on media content -- Internal influences on media content -- Perspectives on the mass media -- Effects of the mass media -- Summary -- Links -- Further reading -- Key journal and journal articles -- Websites -- Activities -- Glossary -- References -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

This essential and authoritative text lays the foundations for a theoretically and methodologically robust understanding of sociology.  Key topics are then examined in an accessible yet rigorous manner, encouraging reflection within a wide social, cultural and historical context.  Topical and fascinating examples from around the world help to contextualise and apply sociological thinking to our own lives.