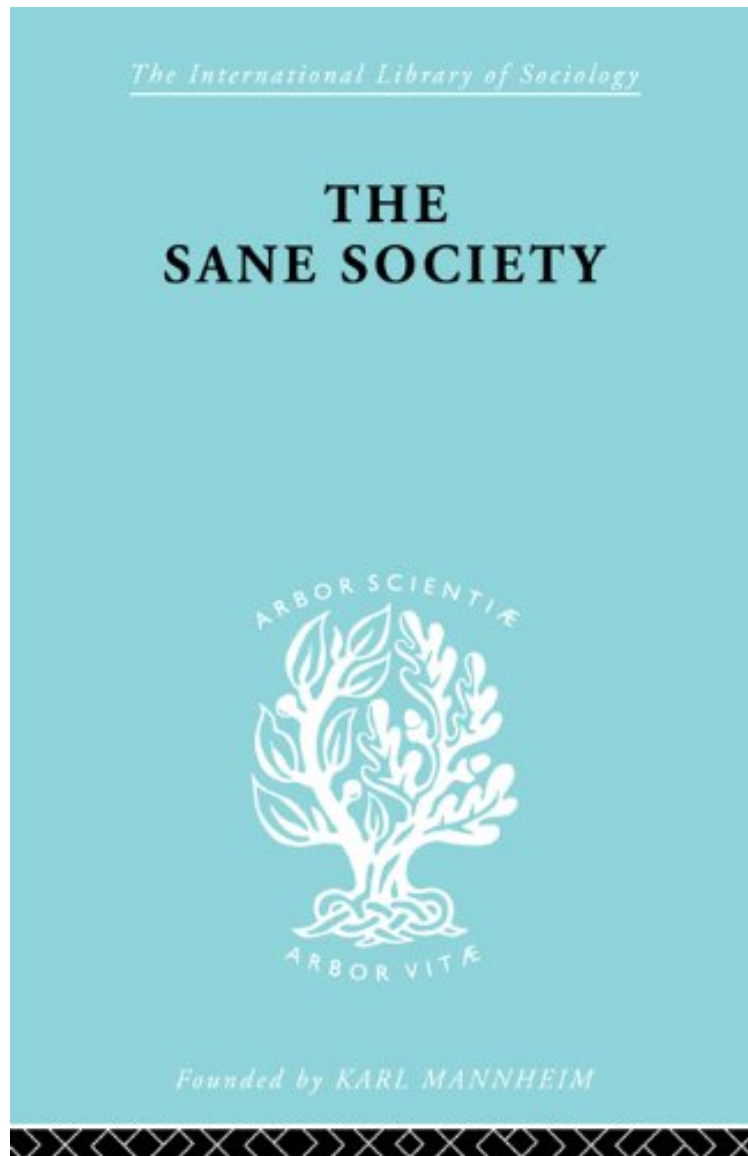


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Sane Society IIs 252: Volume 15 (International Library of Sociology)

Von Erich Fromm

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Von Erich Fromm : Sane Society IIs 252: Volume 15 (International Library of Sociology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sane Society IIs 252: Volume 15 (International Library of Sociology):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An indictment of our societyVon Ein KundeI have never found any author who has a firmer grasp on the human condition than Erich Fromm. Chapter 3 of The Sane Society is a masterpiece in describing what it means to be human and why

we are foolish to expect never to be anxious and always to be happy and smiling. This book is an excellent analysis of the situation of modern man and frightening in that the characteristics Fromm cites have become even more ingrained in us. His thesis is that we are inherently anxious due to our consciousness. Unlike animals who have instincts to script their lives from start to finish, we are free to determine ourselves and this freedom without anyone/anything to tell us what choice to make is frightening. We are capable of joy and our culture is capable of being called a good one to the extent that our lives are a reflection of our individual abilities being given expression in our work, our play, our social life and our government. We are happy to the extent that we realize ourselves, or as Fromm puts it, that we give birth to ourselves over our lifetimes. In order for this to occur our society must value the human over the inanimate (property) and that is the downfall of Capitalism. We are in service to the system of production and have become alienated from ourselves and others. We fashion ourselves to be appealing products on the personality market, becoming no more than objects for sale to others. "I am as you want me to be" is our personal creed and our work, our social life, our family life all are disconnected and increasingly unrelated to us in other than materialistic ways. Fromm's prescription is "communitarian socialism" which is a society in which all aspects of life are interrelated and dedicated to the advancement of human life rather than material production. He sees the problem and a solution but since this book was written (1955) we have accelerated in the direction he feared. If you doubt that what he says is true, try being out of a job and looking for work. You will find how little what you are is valued and how much the art of selling (no matter what is being sold) or narrow technical knowledge is valued. Things are more securely in the saddle than ever before and we are slaves to a system which promotes more of every "thing" and little of what is human. One example from real life of what Fromm is saying in his book... there was a manager where I once worked whom we called "roboman" because he had no ability to relate to people but was obsessed with work, always busy on 5 projects at once and very competent technically in everything he did, though universally reviled for his disregard of people. He got promoted and now heads the company office in another city. God help his employees. People who manipulate things advance and are highly rewarded as Bill Gates can tell you. People who care for people are passed over. Efficiency is King and humanity has been left in the dust. Remember the ancient Greeks saying that the purpose of society is to further the happiness of its members? The purpose of our society is to make more things. You and I are out there at the stores frantically buying and that assures that this will continue. Fromm makes the excellent point that those who are successful in society are considered sane, no matter how pathological they might be when viewed from the perspective of what it means to be an integrated, productive human being. As we ever more frantically race to make life ever more frantic, we are forgetting what sanity is in our materialistic frenzy. You can drive from coast to coast across this country of 300 million people and not have contact with another human being except when they pass you a burger at the drive-through. Very efficient but is this isolation that technology promotes good for people? We could all do with a careful reading of Fromm's book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Eyes opener
Von R.Brown: linkspain@iname.com This is one of the three Fromm's fundamental book (Escape from Freedom, Man for Himself). How Society could be sane when Individuals faces frustrating life in a Consuming Society? I think I understood better what Marx meant with his Dialectic Historical Materialism after reading this great book. The way we get our living and have structures going on influence our life, our health, our happiness more than we have nerver suspected. Capitalism (now that supposedly Communism is death) may lead us to a thrilling world where, individuals are mere pawns of Huge Corporations. I specially recommend it to American readers (reactions to current situation may come from American Liberty tradition).

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Kurzbeschreibung Following the publication of the seminal *Fear of Freedom*, Erich Fromm applied his unique vision to a critique of contemporary capitalism in *The Sane Society*. Where the former dealt with man's historic inability to come to terms with his sense of isolation, and the dangers to which this can lead, *The Sane Society* took his theories one step further. In doing so it established Fromm as one of the most controversial political thinkers of his generation. Analysing how individuals conform to contemporary capitalist and patriarchal societies, the book was published to wide acclaim and even wider disapproval. It was a scathing indictment of modern capitalism and as such proved unwelcome to many. Unwelcome because much of what Fromm had to say was true. Today, as we settle into the challenges of the 21st century, Fromm's writings are just as relevant as when they were first written. Read it and decide for yourself - are you living in a sane society?

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Erich Fromm speaks with wisdom, compassion,

learning and insight into the problems of individuals trapped in a social world that is needlessly cruel and hostile.' - Noam Chomsky
He has enriched our understanding of man in humanity, compassion and love.' - Sunday Times
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