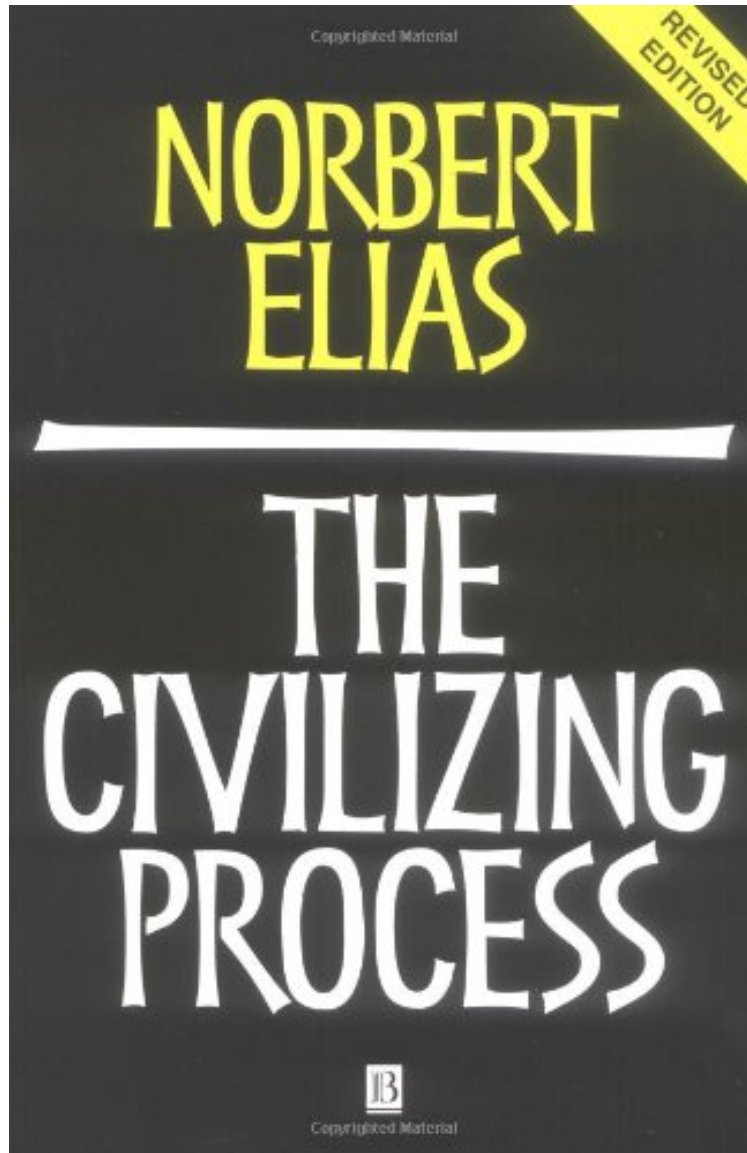


(Free download) The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations

# The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations

Norbert Elias

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**Norbert Elias : The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must read by Karl Krotke Elias is an essential social theorist to read

if you are in graduate school. His work in social theory is groundbreaking. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Aha! By John Kay This is the book that explains why history happens. It requires a fairly large vocabulary or the occasional dip into a dictionary; Elias uses words well and more precisely than most current usage. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Probably the most thought-provoking work of Historical Sociology. By JPV Sociologists usually tend to write about the nineteenth and twentieth centuries if they touch upon the subject of history at all; Norbert Elias, however, is intrepid in the sense that he plucks enough courage to write about the Medieval and Early Modern Periods of European History in 'the Civilizing Process.' He admittedly did challenge many conceptions that I have had of those two periods; in particular, he demonstrated to me the reality that the Medieval Period had been one fraught with violence and uncertainty. Often, one thinks of a shining knight in armor when ruminating upon Medieval history; however, few tend to think of the period as one which featured a precarious balance between peasants who struggled for survival and murderous knights who competed with each other for scarce resources. After reading this book, I became more sympathetic with the progressive view of history. There are many other benefits that the book has. Elias successfully demonstrates to the reader the differences that exist between French, English and German societies. During the Early Modern Period, Germany was a decentralized power which featured many states. In a learned manner, he instructs the reader on why this had been so as compared to France. However, Elias' most helpful contribution is his contention that the court system had been a means through which knights and nobles developed a super-ego. As the nobles became less powerful in time, the court system also helped the bourgeoisie become more civilized. In time, Elias argued that all classes (upper, middle and lower) became more civilized as more individuals came into contact with the bourgeoisie after migrating to the towns and cities; this process, however, was, of course, an incredibly slow one. A slight flaw of this work is that it can be too influenced by Freud; it can also be highly abstract at times. I nevertheless highly recommend this book. It is helpful for scholars from any discipline; despite being written by a sociologist, I would opine that it is helpful for fledgling historians in particular. It is a means through which they can theorize themselves, especially when one takes into consideration the changed nature of the academic discipline of history. However, I would also recommend this work to anyone who wants his conception of the social system to be challenged.

The Civilizing Process stands out as Norbert Elias' greatest work, tracing the "civilizing" of manners and personality in Western Europe since the late Middle Ages by demonstrating how the formation of states and the monopolization of power within them changed Western society forever.

"Without doubt the most important piece of historical sociology since Max Weber." Richard Sennett, London School of Economics. "A modern classic of the first order." Lewis Coser. "Elias has all the boldness and sureness of touch of the old masters, of whom he is perhaps the last. Reading his pages one again and again makes the mental note that this or that point is worthy of a Max Weber ... One realises from a book like this that serious sociology must remain dependent on the insightful interpretation of history of just the kind that Elias provides." Bryan Wilson. "The most remarkable recent attempt to contain the social and the individual within a unified scheme of sociological analysis." Philip Abrams "The Civilizing Process is remarkable: eclectic, insightful and constantly surprising." Times Higher Education Supplement Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German From the Back Cover The Civilizing Process stands out as Norbert Elias' greatest work, tracing the 'civilizing' of manners and personality in Western Europe since the Middle Ages, and showing how this was related to the formation of states and the monopolization of power within them. It comprises the two volumes originally published in English as The History of Manners and State Formation and Civilization, now, in a single volume, the book is restored to its original format and made available world-wide to a new generation of readers. In this new edition, the original text is extensively revised, corrected, and updated. The Revised Edition reveals anew and afresh the greatness of Elias' masterpiece.