Beginning must be followed by continuing. I hope this book has whetted your appetite for reading more of the primary sources of classical social theory. This was my main goal with this book. No one can read everything by everybody, though, which is why you will also need to read some competent surveys that fill in the inevitable gaps in your reading, and secondary literature that gives you a variety of ideas on how to think about it all, and how to think beyond what you read. Here are some recommendations – I have listed first textbooks that are explicitly on classical social theory, then books that cover both classical and contemporary.

**Books on classical social theory, its emergence and background**


Adorno, Theodor W. 2002. *Introduction to Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [This book consists of transcripts of lectures that Adorno gave to first-year students. Adorno used to speak off the cuff, with just minimal notes, which makes this a rather different reading experience. Theorists covered include Comte, Durkheim, Hegel, Horkheimer, Marx, Spencer and Max Weber.]


Hawthorn, Geoffrey. 1976. *Enlightenment and Despair. A History of Social Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press. [This is written in the mode of richly contextualizing intellectual history, starting from the Enlightenment and covering a very wide range of theorists in France, Britain, Germany and the USA, connecting social theorists to their philosophical reference points. Essential background reading.]


Ray, Larry. 1999. *Theorizing Classical Sociology*. Maidenhead: Open University Press. [In spite of the misleading title, this is perhaps the best-presented, most readable short survey textbook on the Enlightenment, Comte, Marx, Durkheim, Tönnies, Simmel and Weber. The chapter on Dilthey’s hermeneutics is very good as background reading to Tönnies, Simmel and Weber.]


Beginning classical social theory


Books on classical and contemporary social theory


Dinerstein, Ana Cecilia (ed.). 2016. Social Sciences for an Other Politics. Women Theorizing Without Parachutes. Cham (Switzerland): Palgrave Macmillan. [A thematically broad collection of critical feminist theory with a strong focus on social movements.]


Harrington, Austin (ed.). 2005. Modern Social Theory, An Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Like the volume edited by Camic above, every chapter is written by another expert, which makes this a very solid book. Only the first quarter of the book is on ‘classical’ social theory, the rest is mostly on the twentieth century.]

Inglis, David, with C. Thorpe. 2012. An Invitation to Social Theory. Cambridge: Polity Press. [Only the first chapter of this book is explicitly on classical social theory, but it makes nineteenth-century references throughout its discussions of twentieth-century theories.]

Lemert, Charles. 2001. Social Things, an Introduction to the Sociological Life, 2nd edn. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. [This is a short and very enjoyable book that offers a broad vision of sociology with lots
of contextual and biographical background; good to be read on the bus, train or at bedtime.]


Marshall, Barbara L., and Anne Witz (eds). 2004. Engendering the Social, Feminist Encounters with Sociological Theory. Maidenhead: Open University Press. [This is a collection of essays, most of which interrogate classical social theory in terms of what it has to say on women, and how some classical theorists interacted with some women theorists.]

Nehring, Daniel. 2013. Sociology. An Introductory Textbook and Reader. Harlow: Pearson. [This is a sociology textbook, not a theory textbook, but it works at a very theory-driven level.]


Seidman, Steven. 2013. Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today, 5th edn. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. [Only the first of seven parts is on ‘classical social theory’. This is the most explicitly social movement-inspired textbook I know of. A good general, very condensed overview textbook.]


Social theory journals

Constellations
Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy
Cultural Critique
Cultural Logic
Culture Theory and Critique
Beginning classical social theory

Dialectical Anthropology
Economy and Society
European Journal of Social Theory
European Journal of Women’s Studies
Fast Capitalism
Feminist Theory
History of the Human Sciences
Hypatia
International Journal of Philosophical Studies
International Journal of Politics Culture and Society
Journal of Classical Sociology
Journal of the History of the Behavioural Sciences
New Left Review
Philosophy and Public Affairs
Philosophy and Social Criticism
Philosophy of the Social Sciences
Politics and Society
Public Culture
Radical Philosophy
Radical Philosophy Review
Science and Society
Signs
Social Epistemology
Social Forces
Social Science History
Social Theory and Practice
Sociological Inquiry
Sociological Perspectives
Sociological Theory
Theory and Society
Theory, Culture and Society
Thesis Eleven
Triple C
Women Studies International Forum

Social theory websites

http://ajcarchives.org/main.php?GroupingId=1380
http://oyc.yale.edu/political-science/plsc-114
http://oyc.yale.edu/sociology
http://understandingsociety.blogspot.co.uk/
Recommendations for further reading

http://www.iep.utm.edu/
http://www.marcuse.org/herbert/
http://www.sociosite.net/sociologists/
http://www.sociosite.net/topics/theory.php
http://www.socwomen.org/
http://www.uta.edu/huma/illuminations/
http://www.theory.org.uk/lego-theorists.htm
https://archive.org/details/texts
https://persistentenlightenment.com/
https://plato.stanford.edu/index.html
https://thecharnelhouse.org/
https://www.marxists.org/