

Societies are in a constant state of flux. Different groups sometimes separate, sometimes merge into one group. New ones come into being while old ones disintegrate. However, there are some groups which, resulting from external circumstances, are completely transformed in their political and economical views, and in their attitude towards the contemporary society.

Because these changes generally occur during a long period of time in history, it is difficult to observe these changes and to discuss them from a sociological point-of-view.

During the past twenty years a most essential transformation occurred in the structure of society in Central and Eastern Europe. In comparing the various social groups in Hungary of twenty years ago with those participating in the Hungarian Revolution, a strikingly great change is noticed. In sociological research twenty years, however, is long enough to ascertain and describe important events. Especially fit for a study is the social structure of Hungary which has in twenty years undergone a change from a society of pseudo-feudalistic nature to one which caused the outbreak of the Hungarian Revolution. Now only faint traces of the earlier society is present.

Even if we examine the events only of the past ten years, we have to take a note of radical changes which are unique in the history of sociology. We are witnessing the formation of

a completely "new class," an exploiting "new class; we see how the members of the former leading class, / industrialists, landowners, ex-army officers,- have lost their influence in the economy and political life of the country, and how they have sunk to the level of the widely emerging proletariat.

Furthermore, it is possible to observe the formation of an alliance between the old class and the formerly oppressed workers and peasants against the new oppressors. Also, we notice, how well the lower class, striving for social justice, was able to recognize the contradictions in communism. Finally, we can learn how the members of the former leading class have lost the economical and political leadership, and how they have recognized, through their own situation, the necessity of social reform.

In addition, a most unusual and interesting research can be made on the former members of the Communist party, showing how these men realized that they were deceived, and how they became the enemy of the exploiting "new class," which maintained the regime by force.

It is generally known that some of the groups of Hungarian society is called guilty for the attitude shown immediately before and during the Second World War. They can be especially blamed for the support they gave to the fascists, and for their one-sided view of world politics. A sociological review of this social group seems to be most desirable.

Other social groups became on the other hand

most interesting for the attitude they have taken after the end of World War II. The roots for the action of the middle class groups and of the workers can be probably traced to earlier experiences, the analization of which would be a most interesting sociological topic.

A new type of sociological outline-series seems to be the most suitable form for this. The outlines would introduce the members of different social groups within their own environment, accompanying each individual or family through one or two decades. In this manner we can see a crossection of the most recent Hungarian society.

A series of twelve to fifteen outlines, each of about thirty two pages, would most likely cover the most significant groups.

The division of the groups to be surveyed is the following:

I. THE AGRARIAN POPULATION

1. A Smallholder from an Agricultural Laborer.
2. A Farmer /"kulák"/ from a Smallholder.
3. An Unskilled Worker from a Landowner.

II. THE INDUSTRIAL POPULATION

1. A Glass Factory Worker's Family.
2. A Skilled Worker in Budapest.
3. A Foreman in Budapest.

III. THE MIDDLE CLASS

1. A Middle Class Couple.
2. The Family of an Ex-Army Officer.
3. The Chief Engineer and University Professor.
4. A Jewish Family to Two Directions.

IV. THE "NEW CLASS."

1. A Young Intellectual Couple.
2. An Officer of the People's Army.
3. The Head /woman/ of the Personnel Department.
4. A "Great Cadre" couple./The family of a Deputy Minister of the Interior./