

Donald G. Macrae: *Ideology & Society*. Papers in Sociology and Politics. Heinemann, 1961, 231pp, 25/-.

This volume is a collection of papers by a Reader in Sociology in the University of London. These articles were previously published in a wide variety of journals: the original dates of their publication spread over the decade of the 1950s. Their style is, unambiguously and emphatically, 'humanist': they display a very wide range of interest and allusion, and the stylistic ideal is urbanity rather than technicality. They are divided by the author into three groups: the first is about sociology and the social sciences, particularly in Britain. The last contains papers relevant to fundamental contemporary social issues, such as the ideological appeal of communism or the impact of affluence on the nature of politics, and display the manner in which sociological ideas illuminate those issues. The somewhat residual middle group is meant to provide examples of sociological thought, applied both to substantive issues (e.g. advertising, religion in transitional societies) and to theoretical ones (e.g. Darwinism, or the notion of ideology). This book should be of value to those interested in information about the social sciences in Britain, and those eager to cultivate the acquaintance of general ideas which may illuminate the

present state of the world. ~~and those who are simply fond~~  
~~of readable and stimulating essays. Their merit is the~~  
~~wide range both of learning and ideas, and their~~  
~~suggestiveness and intelligibility. Their defect,~~  
~~occasional lapses into showiness and Olympian pompousness~~  
~~and a lack of a unifying theme or centre of gravity.~~