

CHOICE

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Social and  
Behavioral  
Sciences

**FROMM, Erich. The working class in Weimar Germany: a psychological and sociological study, tr. by Barbara Weinberger, ed. and introd. by Wolfgang Bonss. Harvard, 1984 (c1980). 291p bibl 83-12851. 22.50 ISBN 0-674-95925-6. CIP**

The publication of this study some 30 years after its completion is significant both because of the work's intrinsic merit and also as a source for the history of the social sciences. Erich Fromm, trained as a sociologist and a psychoanalyst, was a member of the Institute for Social Research in its early years, which included Max Horkheimer, Theodore Adorno, and Herbert Marcuse. Usually referred to as the "Frankfurt School," the orientation of the Institute was Marxist and Freudian and led to the creation of "critical theory." Fromm's study, which foreshadows the later publication of Adorno et al., *The Authoritarian Personality* (1950), is based on a survey given to German workers in 1929. It was not published until now partly because of the conflicts between Fromm and other members of the Institute, but also because it was deemed politically undesirable; the result tended to suggest authoritarian and "fascist" tendencies among German workers. It is important for its new methodology as well as for the information it provides about values and attitudes of German workers just before the accession of Hitler to power. Its belated publication is most welcome. Primarily for university libraries.—*G.M. Kren, Kansas State University*

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