

Contents

Editor's Preface	xi
Preface	xv
1 The Nature of Social Evolutionism	1
2 Classical Evolutionism	10
Herbert Spencer	10
Lewis Henry Morgan	12
Edward Burnett Tylor	15
The Epistemologies of the Classical Evolutionists	16
Ordinary Causal Explanation in the Classical Evolutionists	21
The Classical Evolutionists and Darwinism	28
Classical Evolutionism and the Doctrine of Progress	30
3 The Antievolutionary Reaction	36
Classical Evolutionism and the Comparative Method	37
Were the Classical Evolutionists Unilinearists?	41
Classical Evolutionism and Diffusion	43
The Contributions of the Classical Evolutionists	45
4 Marxism as Evolutionism	50
Cohen's Interpretation of Marx	51
Was Marx a Technological Determinist?	53
Was Marx a Developmentalist?	54
An Alternative Conception of Marx's Theory of History	59
Marx's Periodization of History	61

Engels's Evolutionism	64
Marx, Engels, and Morgan	68
The Darwinian Connection	70
Conclusions	71
5 The Evolutionary Revival	75
V. Gordon Childe	75
Leslie White	83
Julian Steward	91
Some Comparisons and Conclusions	95
6 Sociological Neoevolutionism	103
Parsons's Early Conceptions of Social Change	104
Smelser's <i>Social Change in the Industrial Revolution</i>	105
Parsons's Theory of Social Evolution	108
The Logical Structure of Parsonian Evolutionism	113
Parsons's Theory of Social Evolution: A Critique	118
The Current Status of Sociological Neoevolutionism	126
7 Anthropological Evolutionism Since 1960	131
The Evolutionism of the Young Marshall Sahlins	131
Elman Service's Functionalist Evolutionism	134
Robert Carneiro's Spencerian Evolutionism	138
Gerhard Lenski's Technological Evolutionism	144
Marvin Harris's Evolutionary Materialism	153
8 Evolutionary Biology and Social Evolutionism	169
Darwinism and Theories of Social Evolution	170
The Concept of Adaptation in Biological and Social Evolutionism	180
Biological and Social Evolution as Processes of Differentiation	190
Evolutionary Progress	196
Conclusions	203
Appendix: The Theory of Punctuated Equilibria: A Model for Social Evolution?	206
9 Contemporary Antievolutionism	209
Evolutionism and External Influences	210
Evolutionism and the Comparative Method	211

Evolutionism and Human Agency	212
Evolutionism and Human Psychology	215
Evolutionism and Directionality	216
10 Toward a Comprehensive Theory of Sociocultural Evolution	223
References	229
Index	244