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peter drucker may be best known especially in the united states as a writer on business and management but in fact these subjects are neither his first nor have they been his foremost

intellectual concern most of his books on management deal less with strategy and results than with the nature of the corporation as an expression of human effort and a social institution from the time of his intellectual apprenticeship in europe to the present day drucker s primary concern has been community in which the individual has status and society in which the individual has function he has brought together selections from his vast writings on these subjects in a functioning society the materials in this volume are drawn both from his published books and from previously uncollected writings together they present the full range of drucker s thought on community society and the political structure and constitute an ideal introduction to his ideas the volume is divided into seven parts the selections in parts 1 and 2 were mostly written during world war ii and in the wake of the great depression they seek to define the functioning society in the modern industrial world from a historical perspective and to identify institutions that could recreate community the collapse of which produced totalitarianism in europe part 3 deals with the limits of governmental competence in the social and economic realm it contains some of drucker s most influential writings concerned as he is here with the difference between big government and effective government the chapters in part 4 explore the rise of organizations or autonomous centers of power outside of government and within society these include business corporations but also universities unions hospitals and community organizations part 5 contains chapters from drucker s pathbreaking work on the corporation as a social organization rather than merely an economic one this was a controversial concept in 1946 today it is taken for granted the rise of the so called knowledge industries forms the background for part 6 in which drucker explores the meaning of the shift from a society economy and polity based on manual work and skill to one based on knowledge and knowledge workers the concluding part 7 is devoted entirely to drucker s long essay the next society here drucker examines the emergence of new institutions and new theories arising from the information revolution and the social changes they are helping to bring about in organizing these representative writings drucker has chosen to be topical rather than merely chronological with each excerpt presenting a basic theme of his work he selected his contributions as well for their literary quality and accessibility to the general reader as is characteristic of his work a functioning society will attract both the general reader as well as a cross disciplinary scholarly readership

a thoughtful text integrating strengths assets and capacity building themes with contemporary issues in rural social work practice now in its second edition rural social work is a collection of contributed readings from social work scholars students and practitioners presenting a framework for resource building based on the strengths assets and capacities of people a tool essential for working with rural communities this guide considers methods for social workers to

participate in the work of sustaining rural communities each chapter features a reading integrating the themes of capacity building and rural social work discussion questions that facilitate critical thinking around the chapter and suggested activities and assignments rural social work second edition explores important practice issues in rural communities including the challenges of working with stigmatized populations such as gay lesbian bisexual and transgendered people the homeless and people living with hiv aids practice models that hold special promise for rural social workers including evidence based practice and community partnership models newer research tools such as asset mapping social network analysis concept mapping and geographic information systems gis exploring how social workers can integrate the tremendous resources that exist in rural communities into their practice rural social work second edition provides a solid introduction to the complex challenging and rewarding work of building and sustaining rural communities

a coherent survey of the reception and influence of karl popper s masterpiece the open society and its enemies over the fifty years since its publication in 1945

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