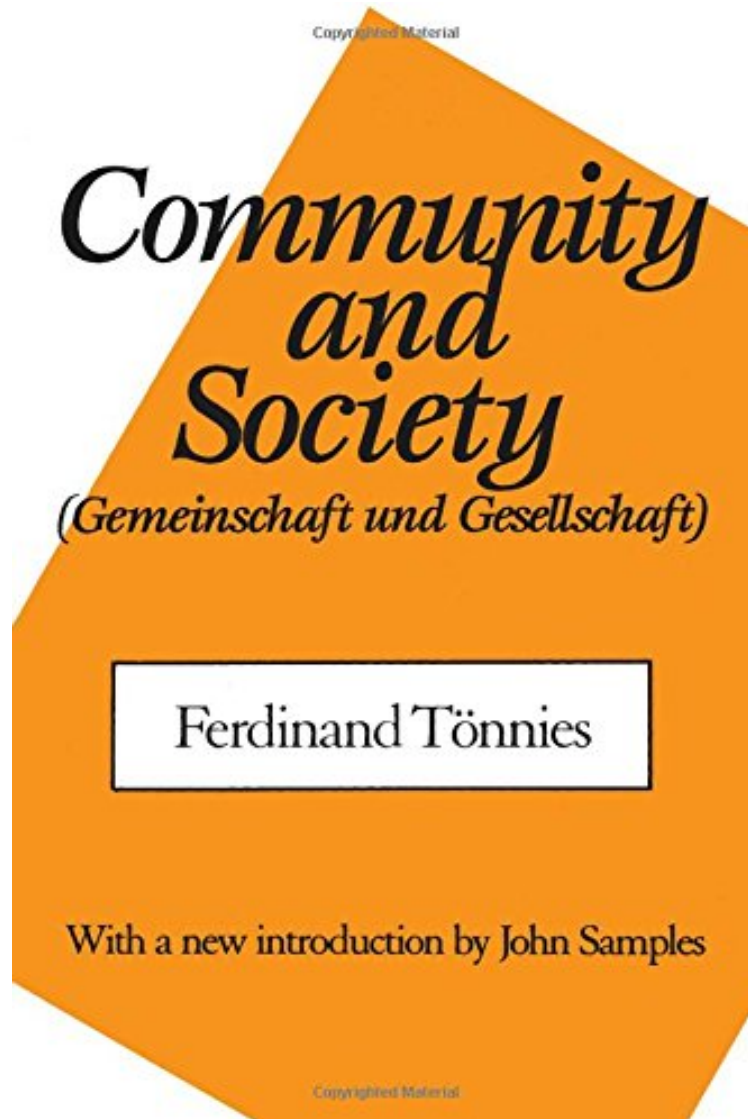


Community and Society

Ferdinand Tonnies, C.P. Loomis
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Ferdinand Tonnies, C.P. Loomis : Community and Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Community and Society:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy AnonymousPPP=Perfectly pleasing purchase9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A classicBy Tomas CvrcekThis book really is a classic in its field. Written towards the end of the nineteenth century it tried to cope with the whole universe of new phenomena that the young industrial European society encountered for the first time in its history. The book was not considered too influential at

first but shortly before WW1 and even more so after it, it began to grow in influence. Tonnies's greatest contribution to sociology is perhaps the distinction he makes between a large society and a small community and the difference in the substance of the relationships prevailing in one and the other. He was largely a conservative, viewing the preindustrial world in rosy colours and in this way he served as one of the ideological sources of fascism (but then, Nazis abused and misinterpreted many other authors, so this is not anything against Tonnies). Strangely enough, even the totalitarian Left found him inspiring, thus cementing the view that both the big totalitarian ideologies of the twentieth century had lots in common.

This extraordinary prescient work by Ferdinand Toennies was written in 1887 for a small coterie of scholars, and over the next fifty years continued to grow in importance and adherents. Its translator into English, Charles P. Loomis, well described it as a volume which pointed back into the Middle Ages and ahead into the future in its attempt to answer the questions: "What are we? Where are we? Whence did we come? Where are we going?" If the questions seem portentous in the extreme, the answers Toennies provides are modest and compelling. Every major field from sociology, to psychology, to anthropology, has found this to be a praiseworthy book. The admirable translation by Professor Loomis did much to transfer praise for the Toennies text from the German to the English-speaking world. Now, outfitted with a brilliant new opening essay by John Samples, the author of a recent full-scale biographical work on Toennies, 'Community and Society' is back in print; a welcome reminder of the glorious past of German social science.

"Toennies' great classic serves to bring a much needed addition to the American shelves of sociological theory. Toennies may now be better understood as a sociologist who sought to study and thoroughly analyze the social nature of man and the 'things' which result from social life." *Sociology and Social Life*. "Toennies' typology has provided a focus for American anthropologists and sociologists in their work on problems of social change. Perhaps of the most general significance, however, are Toennies' basic statements on the use of normal concepts in empirical analysis, from which Max Weber's 'ideal-typical' method received its impetus." *Contemporary Psychology*. "Toennies' fundamental insight into the types of social organization and their influence on the corresponding types of personality and culture has been generally accepted. Durkheim's work and Redfield's folk-urban typology reflect the influence of his thought. *Community and Society* is a rich, seminal work which will repay careful study by students of theoretical anthropology and sociology." *The American Anthropologist*. Language NotesText: English, German (translation)About the AuthorJohn Samples directs Catos Center for Representative Government, and is an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University. He has taught political science at Rutgers University and Southwest Texas University.Ferdinand Tnnies (18551936) was a German sociologist most famous for studying the distinction between Gemeinschaft (community) and Gesellschaft (society) who also served as a lecturer at the University of Kiel.