

Panagiotis Kondylis

THE POLITICAL AND MAN

Basic features of social ontology

Panagiotis Kondylis

THE POLITICAL AND MAN

Basic features of social ontology

VOLUME I

SOCIAL RELATION, UNDERSTANDING, RATIONALITY

VOLUME II

SOCIETY AS POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

VOLUME III

IDENTITY, POWER, CULTURE

Panagiotis Kondylis

SOCIAL RELATION
UNDERSTANDING
RATIONALITY

From Kondylis's unpublished text, edited by Falk Horst

Translated by C.F. from the original German - Kondylis, Panajotis: *Das Politische und der Mensch. Grundzüge der Sozialontologie*, Berlin: Akademie Verlag, Band 1, Soziale Beziehung, Verstehen, Rationalität, 1999.

Reference was also made to the Greek language translation, which was accorded minimal weight as it was not a translation by Kondylis himself - Κονδύλης, Παναγιώτης: *Το Πολιτικό και ο Άνθρωπος*, Αθήνα: Θεμέλιο, μετάφραση: Λευτέρης Αναγνώστου, 2007.

© all rights reserved 2015. This translation should not be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the express written permission of its author

C.F. contactable through the following email address:

pkproject@live.co.uk

Table of contents

Preliminary note	5
I. Social theory and mass-democratic ideology	7
1. General remark	8
2. The becoming and forming of contemporary mass-democratic social theory	18
3. Differentiation, complexity and evolution: the relapse into the philosophy of history	69
4. Community and society: a legend rich in consequences	96
5. Mass-democratic social theory and anthropology	108
6. The political in mass-democratic social theory and in the constitution of the social	146
7. Outlook	166
II. Social sciences and social ontology	173
1. Stumbling and flight of fancy of philosophers in the realm of the social	174
2. Social-scientific methodological questions from a social-ontological perspective	206

A.	Two kinds of founding of sociology	206
B.	Sociology and history	235
C.	The instructive errors of methodological individualism	269
a.	Methodological individualism as militant liberalism	269
b.	The unintended consequences of action	277
c.	The social-theoretical consequences of the unintended consequences of action	291
d.	Laws and causalities	315
e.	Microstructures and macrostructures	343
3.	Social ontology as theoretical dimension of depth	355
A.	The specific point of view of social ontology	355
B.	The being (Is) of society as object (or subject matter) of social ontology	379
C.	The three ontic aspects of the social and the theoretical triptych of social ontology	398
III. Social relation: the spectrum		427
1.	The approach of formal sociology	429
A.	The functionalistic background and ambivalences of formalism	429
B.	The form-related (i.e. formal) criterion of nearness (proximity) and distance	449
2.	The polarity in the spectrum of the social relation	461
A.	Anthropological parameters: the mortality of man	461
B.	The neutrality of the psychological and ethical factor	480
3.	The continuity in the spectrum of the social relation	508

A. The meaning and the aetiology of continuity	508
B. “Normality” and “exception”	526
C. The phenomenology of continuity. A sketch	535
4. Excursus: the spectrum of the social relation in the spectrum of social theory and of social science	566
IV. Social relation: the mechanism	592
1. The inner (internal) mechanism	594
A. Outlook	594
B. The Other and his subjectivity	600
a. The openness of the social relation and the imponderability of the Other	600
b. Alienness (foreignness, strangeness, unfamiliarity) and trust (confidence)	632
C. Assumption and taking on/over of perspectives	652
a. Sociological and phenomenological preliminary work	652
b. The reflexivity (i.e. reflectivity as the capability of quiet thought or contemplation; reflectiveness; thoughtfulness) of the assumption and taking on/over of perspectives, its two levels, and the spectrum of the social relation	659
c. Mead’s ascertainments, aims and contradictions	696
D. Social-ontic foundations of social-scientific understanding	723
E. Communication	764
a. Preliminary remarks and observation: boom and ambiguity (or multiple meanings) of the concept	764
b. The Other as subject and as object or as end/goal and as means	

.....	773
c. The community of communication of honest, sincere and genuine subjects	803
F. Excursus (i.e. Digression): pity and sympathy. Regarding the pre- history of the theory of the assumption and taking on/over of perspectives	830
2. The outer (external) mechanism	867
A. Action: inner (internal) and outer (external)	867
a. Action and social action	867
b. Reasons (grounds) and causes, intent(ion)s and motives of action	903
c. Action and the dimensions of its sense (i.e. meaning) ...	931
B. Situation and Time	947
C. Dyad and triad	967
D. Mutuality (or reciprocity) and exchange	988
a. The social-ontological status (importance, significance, value and weight) of mutuality (or reciprocity)	988
b. Exchange: the diffuse economisation of social theory and the social relation as the parameter of the calculus (i.e. calculation) of benefit (utility, use and advantage)	1020
c. The fiction of generalised exchange and the incest taboo	1057
d. Gift and <i>Kula</i>	1076
V. Rationality, symbol and language in the field of tension of the social relation	1119
1. Levels, forms and degrees of rationality	1121
A. Preliminary remark	1121

B.	The anthropological and social-ontological parameters of rationality	1126
a.	Generally	1126
b.	The rationality of the means and the rationality of the ends / goals	1145
c.	Rationality as world-theoretical rationalisation	1164
d.	Rationality as disposition and self-control and rationality as psychological rationalisation (justification) and the logic of identity	1180
C.	The misleading concept of “end/goal rationality” and M. Weber’s problematic typification of social action	1223
D.	“Rational choice” and the tact of judgement	1254
2.	Universal rationality and universal understanding: in which sense?	1281
3.	The constitutive ambiguity of the symbol and the rationality of the ritual	1322
4.	The form-related (i.e. formal) parameters of language and their content-related concretisation by (way of) the social relation	1347