NORBERT ELIAS

On the Process of Civilisation

Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations
Previous editions published under the title The Civilizing Process

Translated by Edmund Jephcott
with some notes and corrections by the author

The Collected Works of Norbert Elias VOLUME 3
Edited by Stephen Mennell, Eric Dunning, Johan Goudsblom and Richard Kilminster

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN PRESS
Preas Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath
CONTENTS

List of illustrations x
Norbert Elias, 1897–1990 xi
Note on the text xiii

ON THE PROCESS OF CIVILISATION

Preface 3

VOLUME I Changes in the Behaviour of the Secular Upper Classes in the West
PART ONE On the Sociogenesis of the Concepts of ‘Civilisation’ and ‘Culture’ 13
1 Sociogenesis of the contrast between ‘Kultur’ and ‘Zivilisation’ in German usage 15
   Introduction 15
   The developmental path of the contrast between Kultur and Zivilisation 19
   Examples of courtly attitudes in Germany 21
   The middle class and the court nobility in Germany 26
   Literary examples of the relationship of the German middle-class intelligentsia to the people of the court 32
   The recession of the social element and the advance of the national element in the contrast between Kultur and Zivilisation 38

2 The sociogenesis of the concept of ‘civilisation’ in France 44
   Introduction 44
   The sociogenesis of Physiocracy and the French reform movement 49

PART TWO Civilisation as a Specific Transformation of Human Behaviour 59
1 The history of the concept of ‘civilité’ 61
2 On medieval manners 68
3 The problem of the change in behaviour during the Renaissance 78
4 On behaviour at table
   Examples
   i. Representing upper-class behaviour in fairly pure form 91
   ii. From books addressed to wider bourgeois strata 98
   Comments on the quotations on table manners 103
   Group 1:
   An overview of the societies to which the texts were addressed 103
   Excursus on the rise and decline of the concepts of *courtoisie* and *civilité* 105
   Overview of the curve of the ‘civilising’ of eating habits 107
   Excursus on the modelling of speech at court 111
   Reasons given by people for distinguishing between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ behaviour 115
   Group 2:
   On the eating of meat 118
   On the use of the knife at table 123
   On the use of the fork at table 126

5 Changes in attitudes towards the natural functions
   Examples
   Some comments on the examples and on these changes in general 133

6 On blowing one’s nose
   Examples
   Comments on the quotations on nose-blowing 147

7 On spitting
   Examples
   Comments on the quotations on spitting 154

8 On behaviour in the bedroom
   Examples
   Comments on the examples 160

9 Changes in attitudes towards the relations between men and women 166

10 On changes in aggressiveness 186

11 Scenes from the life of a knight 199
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART THREE</th>
<th>Feudalisation and State Formation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Introduction</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of courtly society</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A prospective glance at the sociogenesis of absolutism</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Dynamics of feudalisation</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centralising and decentralising forces in the medieval power figuration</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The increase in population after the period of the great migrations</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some observations on the sociogenesis of the Crusades</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The internal expansion of society: the formation of new social organs and instruments</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On some new elements in the structure of medieval society as compared with antiquity</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the sociogenesis of feudalism</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the sociogenesis of Minnesang and courtly forms of conduct</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 On the sociogenesis of the state</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first stage of the rising monarchy: competition and monopolisation within a territorial framework</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excursus on some differences in the paths of development of Britain, France and Germany</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the monopoly mechanism</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early competitive struggles within the framework of the kingdom</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The resurgence of centrifugal forces: the figuration of the competing princes</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The last stages of the free competitive struggle and the establishment of the final monopoly of the victor</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The power balance within the unit of rule: its significance for the central authority – the formation of ‘the royal mechanism’</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the sociogenesis of the monopoly of taxation</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART FOUR</td>
<td>Overview: Towards a Theory of Civilising Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 The social constraint towards self-constraint</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Spread of the pressure for foresight and self-constraint 418
3 Diminishing contrasts, increasing varieties 422
4 The courtisation of the warriors 428
5 The muting of drives: psychologisation and rationalisation 439
6 Shame and repugnance 457
7 Increasing constraints on the upper class: increasing pressure from below 464
8 Conclusion 479

Postscript (1968) 491

Appendices
I Foreign-language originals of the exemplary extracts and verses 531
II Note on earlier discussions of ‘Civilisation’ and ‘Kultur’ in German 559
III Nuances of ‘Court’ and ‘Courtier’ in Zedler’s Universal-Lexicon 561
IV On the early use of the word ‘civilisation’ in French 562
V The popularity of Erasmus’s ‘De civilitate morum puerialium’ 563
VI On boorish inversion: Dedekind’s ‘Grobianus’ 564
VII Notes on what was new in Erasmus 567
VIII The moulding of drives 569
IX Excerpt from Erasmus’s colloquy on ‘The Young Man and Harlot’ 571
X Modern attitudes to medieval nakedness 572
XI On cleanliness and the crumbling of the armour of civilised conduct 573
XII On feudalism in Europe and Asia 577
XIII Differences in the pace and structure of German and French feudalisation 580
XIV On cities, barter and monetarisation 582
XV Slaves, free men and manual work in Ancient Rome 584
XVI On law and political development 585
XVII Note on the concept of social power 587
XVIII On the Chinese form of centralisation 589
XIX On goals, purposes and functional explanation 590
XX On theories of social change 592
XXI On Gracián’s ‘Oraculo Manuale’ 594
XXII  Shame feelings, sexual relations, class and religion  597
XXIII  On British national character  599
XXIV  On the strength of tensions, population pressure and international economics in hegemonic states  601
XXV  Some American authors on habits and fears  604
XXVI  Two faces of changing social standards of behaviour and feeling  606
XXVII  On social change as a ‘malfunction’ of ‘social equilibrium’  608
XXVIII  On differences between the value attitudes of continental European and ‘Anglo-Saxon’ elites  610
XXIX  On ideology, Realpolitik, and American sociology  611
XXX  Notes on the plates from 'Das mittelalterliche Hausbuch'
PATRICK MURPHY AND STEPHEN MENNELL  613
XXXI  Preface to ‘Scenes from the life of a knight’, 1947  617

Bibliography  619

Index  636
ILLUSTRATIONS

Between pps. 202 and 203

i Merkur und seine Kinder (Mercury and his children)
ii Saturn und seine Kinder (Saturn and his children)
iii Die Hochwildjagd (The noble hunt)
iv Die Niederwildjagd (In pursuit of lesser game)
v Wasserburg (The moated castle)
vi Bergwerkspanorama (The mining panorama)
vii Hüttenwerk (Interior of a smelting plant with cupel furnace, bellows and workers)
viii Das Krönleinstechen (The coronal joust)
ix Das Scharfrennen (The tilt)
x Heerlager (Wagenburg) (The army encampment)
xii Mars und seine Kinder (Mars and his children)
xii Venus und ihre Kinder (Venus and her children)
xiii Badehaus (The bathhouse)
xiv Der obszöne Liebesgarten (The obscene garden of love)