Social Problems



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著者:Charon, Joel M./ Vigilant, Lee Garth

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A unique and groundbreaking collection of 54 articles organized in 11 thematic sections, SOCIAL PROBLEMS: READINGS WITH FOUR QUESTIONS, Third Edition, combines a rigorous structural/conflict approach with a strong emphasis on the real-life experiences of those impacted by social problems. The articles include both classic and contemporary readings covering a wide range of issues in the United States and around the world. The introductory article, written by Joel M. Charon, introduces four questions that students are urged to apply throughout the reader: What is the problem? What makes the problem a "social problem"? What causes the problem? What can be done? These questions give students a consistent sociological framework to help them analyze the readings and think critically about social problems. The articles have been painstakingly selected to hold student interest while illuminating key topics; most come from books and trade publications rather than dry academic journals. As a whole, the collection powerfully explores a wide range of contemporary social problems while providing the tools and context to help students think sociologically about the social problems around us.

作者介绍: