

## A Study of Herder's Social Philosophy

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### **Abstract**

Though Herder is a prominent figure in European intellectual history, his contributions to sociological theory have not been sufficiently noticed. The present paper attempts to provide a systematic exposition of Herder's views concerning the social world and social reality. The three main sections deal, respectively, with (1) Herder's argument for the sociality of man based on an analysis of human language; (2) Herder's discussion of the three determining factors of man's social life: climate, genius and tradition; and, (3) Herder's criticism of modern European societies and nations. The concluding section offers some appreciative and critical comments on Herder's social theory.

**Key Words:** Herder, social theory, human nature, nation, tradition