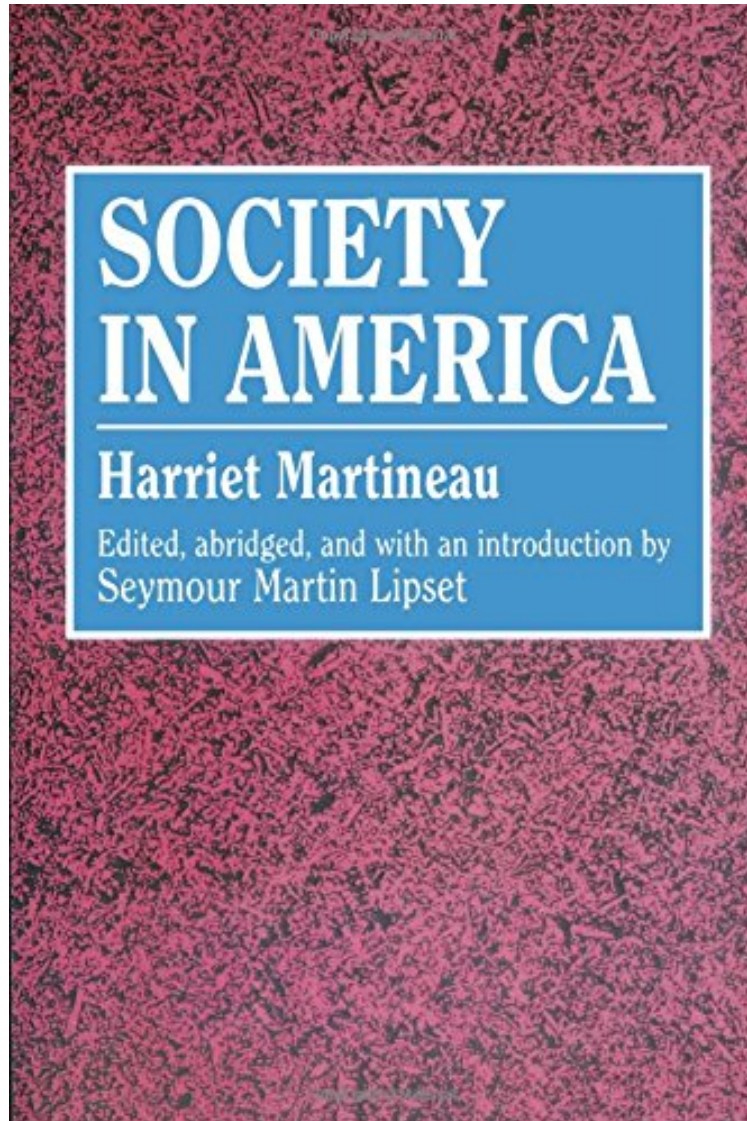


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Harriet Martineau brought to her observations the convictions of a vehement English liberal and an astonishingly modern sociological approach. In 1834 she wrote the first draft of *How to Observe Manners and Morals*--perhaps the earliest book on the methodology of social research. In abridging the 800-page original for the modern reader, Lipset has concentrated on Martineau's brilliant discussion of religious practices, social status, and childrearing; political apathy and the position of women, blacks, and immigrants; and the American's casual approach to indebtedness and his speculative wealth-or-ruin schemes.

About the Author Harriet Martineau (1802-1876) authored *Society in America* (1837) and *Retrospect of Western Travel* (1838), which are considered to be major analyses of American life. Seymour Martin Lipset (1922-2006) was professor emeritus of sociology at George Mason University. Among his books are *American Exceptionalism: A Double-Edged Sword*; *North American Cultures: Values and Institutions in Canada and the United States*; *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*; and *Rebellion in the University*. He had a long-standing interest in Israel and Jewish affairs, and was past president of the Association of American Scholars for Peace in the Middle East.