

# Contents

*Acknowledgements*



## **Introduction**

The need for theory in historical explanation  
The expansion of social history  
The developing relationship between social  
theory and social history

## **1 Cinderella Gets Her Prince? The Development of Social History**

Ideas, philosophy and the roots of social history  
Silencing the 'drum and trumpet'? early social history  
traditions in Britain  
1945 and after  
Conclusion

## **2 Fruit of a 'special relationship'? Historical Sociology**

Introduction  
The temporary separation of history and sociology  
Differing reactions to the growing convergence of history  
and sociology  
Historical sociology  
Historical sociology: the view from the air  
Historical sociology on the ground: an example  
Conclusions

<b>3 'A mass of factors and influences?' Systemic, 'Total' and 'Comparative' Histories</b>	<b>55</b>
The intellectual context of large-scale thinking in social history	59
' <i>Histoire Totale</i> ': the world of Braudel	58
Braudel's influence	62
Comparative history	67
The postmodern challenge	75
Conclusion	78
<b>4 Social Structure and Human Agency in Historical Explanation</b>	<b>80</b>
Introduction	80
Structure and agency in history and sociology	81
Society and the individual: structure and agency in social theory	84
Looking for an exit from the structuralist maze: post-structuralism, figuration and structuration	95
Class, gender and ethnicity in the historical process	100
Conclusion	116
<b>5 Ideology, <i>Mentalité</i> and Social Ritual: From Social History to Cultural History</b>	<b>118</b>
Historic approaches to social and cultural aspects of the past	120
Ideology and mentality	123
Marxist social history, 'history from below' and subordinate 'cultures'	125
From women's history to gender history	128
Cultural history as 'the history of mentalities'	130
'New cultural history' and the eclipse of 'old social history'?	141
Conclusion	146

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>148</b>
<i>Glossary</i>	152
<i>Notes</i>	161
<i>Further Reading</i>	189
<i>Index</i>	200

