By Alastair Humphreys Microadventures Local Discoveries For Great Escapes

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this volume offers intellectual portraits of eleven giants of the modern social sciences it is bound by two central themes the first is that there is a fundamental unity behind the various forms of social science there is a general social science as well as a variety of social science disciplines the second theme is that a biographical approach is a useful tool for making clear some of the central ideas of social science by looking at the lives and achievements of selected masters we should be better able to understand the fundamental nature or natures of social science in order to determine which figures should be regarded as masters schellenberg defines the three main kinds of work he sees as central for social science first is the work of basic discovery done by searchers who made especially important contributions to empirical work in the social sciences the persons he selected for special treatment here are louis leakey mary leakey margaret mead and b f skinner he then considers the work of theory choosing for examination seers who had made especially important theoretical contributions john dewey talcott parsons and kenneth boulding schellenberg next examines those social scientists who worked to seek changes in society these were the shakers or social reformers in schellenberg s view these come in three main subtypes and he sought to include at least one example of each gunnar myrdal and alva myrdal as social engineers c wright mills as a rebellious social critic and daniel patrick moynihan as one whose contribution was made more directly into the world of politics schellenberg s exploration of the lives of these eleven masters of twentieth century social science reveals many surprises and ironies while he points out major contributions he also has felt free to make criticisms as he has said these were all real persons with failings and foibles as well as persons of great achievement i felt that the examination of

this book is a fulfillment of the dream of the sage of transcendentalism ralph waldo emerson and b f skinner to demystify the workings of the human mind with reference to ability interest talents and creative endowments it discusses creativity as the central focus in every field of study economy and thereby ushers mankind into the emergence of the creative age revolution

great advances in a medical or surgical discipline originate from courageous and unabashed committed professionals who are fearless in exploring new avenues of management or treatment great advances in the chosen field are dependent on those who think and practice innovation and discovery great advances in selected or wide areas of medicine or s

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