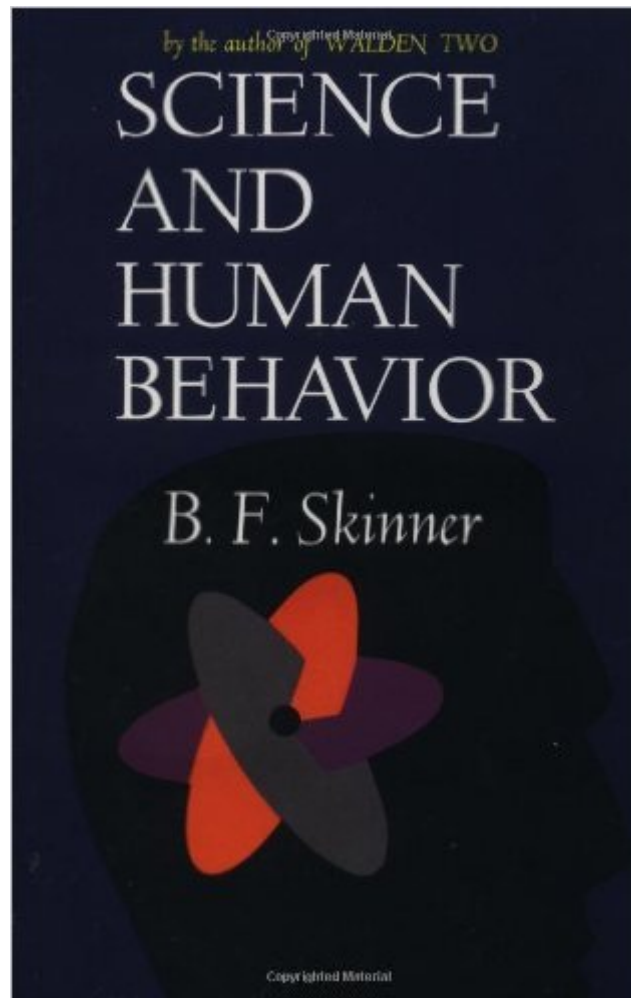


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Science And Human Behavior



Synopsis

The psychology classicâ "a detailed study of scientific theories of human nature and the possible ways in which human behavior can be predicted and controlledâ "from one of the most influential behaviorists of the twentieth century and the author of *Walden Two*.â œThis is an important book, exceptionally well written, and logically consistent with the basic premise of the unitary nature of science. Many students of society and culture would take violent issue with most of the things that Skinner has to say, but even those who disagree most will find this a stimulating book.â • â "Samuel M. Strong, *The American Journal of Sociology*â œThis is a remarkable bookâ "remarkable in that it presents a strong, consistent, and all but exhaustive case for a natural science of human behaviorâ |It ought to beâ |valuable for those whose preferences lie with, as well as those whose preferences stand against, a behavioristic approach to human activity.â • â "Harry Prosch, *Ethics*

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Customer Reviews

Burrhus Frederic Skinner (1904-1990) was an American psychologist, social philosopher, and author. He was a Professor of Psychology at Harvard University from 1958 until his retirement in 1974, and perhaps the most influential behaviorist of the 20th century. His most famous books are *Verbal Behavior*, *Beyond Freedom & Dignity* and *Walden Two*. Here are some representative quotations from the book: "To what extent is it helpful to be told, 'He drinks because he is thirsty'? If to be thirsty means nothing more than to have a tendency to drink, this is mere redundancy. If it means that he drinks because of a state of thirst, an inner causal event is invoked. If this state is

purely inferential ... it cannot serve as an explanation." (Pg. 33)"Trait-names begin as adjectives--'intelligent,' 'aggressive,' 'disorganized,'... and so on... But at no point in such a series do we make contact with any event outside the behavior itself which justifies the claim of a causal connection." (Pg. 202)"We cannot account for suicide as a simple response... No one jumps into a brook to bring his life to an end because the same behavior had a similar consequence in the past... Fortunately we need not decide this issue to make the present point." (Pg.

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