

**AUTHORITY**

by Richard Sennett  
Knopf, 1980, 206 pp.  
\$10 cloth; Vintage,  
1981, 228 pp.  
\$4.95 paper

The bloody 1894 Pullman strike began in a community that, at the time, was considered the most successful company town in America—Pullman, Ill. Sennett, a humanities professor at New York University, suggests two reasons why employee dissatisfaction exploded there: Workers were well cared for but were not allowed to buy their homes, a restriction that thwarted the dreams of many immigrants; when things went wrong—e.g., a drop in demand caused temporary layoffs—workers held authority figure George Pullman personally responsible and were loath to recognize that external factors played a role in their fates. This case study is one of several in *Authority*, the first of a projected four books by the author on the “emotional bonds of modern society” (the others are solitude, fraternity, and ritual). Sennett has woven historic precedents, findings from psychoanalysis, sociological thought (including the theories of Locke, Bentham, Weber), and literary examples (Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Proust) into a broad philosophical rumination on the nature of authority.

**THE WINDING PASSAGE:  
Essays and Sociological  
Journeys, 1960–1980**

by Daniel Bell  
Abt, 1980  
370 pp. \$25

Recently in these pages, the influential Harvard sociologist Daniel Bell asserted that he had “rarely written ‘unambiguously’ about anything.” This may demonstrate why Bell is claimed by the Right *and* the Left, and why he repeatedly confounds both. It also explains why these 17 essays originally appeared in periodicals with very different outlooks: *Commentary*, *Partisan Review*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The American Scholar*, among others. Pursuing themes developed in *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society* (1973) and *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism* (1976), Bell ruminates on ethnicity, national character, religion, and technology. Rarely does he offer cures for America’s ills. But he defines this country’s dilemma: Its economy, polity, and culture are rooted in separate traditions, each with its own arcane rules. For example, business corporations want employees “to work hard [and] accept delayed gratification.” Yet their products and advertisements promote