

Biografie Herbert Spencer

*Derby, England 27. April 1820

†Brighton, England 8. Dezember 1903

englischer Philosoph und Soziologe

Vater: William George Spencer, Lehrer

Mutter: Harriet Spencer, geborene Holmes, Hausfrau

Geschwister: Louise (starb dreijährig); 4 Brüder und 3 Schwestern (starben alle vor dem ersten Lebensjahr)

Ehe: keine

Kinder: keine

Religion: Society of Friends (Quäker), dann ohne religiöses Bekenntnis

- 27.4.1820 Geboren als erstes und einziges überlebendes Kind von neun Kindern in **Derby**. Als schwächliches und wiederholt krankes Kind kein regelmäßiger Schulbesuch (3 Jahre Elementarschule). Ausbildung durch seinen Vater.
- 1833-1836 Übersiedlung zu seinem Onkel Thomas Spencer, einem Geistlichen und Lehrer, nach **Hinton Charterhouse** nahe Bath, England. Hier einige Monate Weiterbildung, unter anderem in Chartismus <Link: <http://65.107.211.206/victorian/history/hist3.html>> und nonkonformistischem Protestantismus durch seinen Onkel.
- 1836-1837 Lebte wieder in **Derby**.
1837 Nach Beendigung seiner Ausbildung einige Monate **Assistant Schoolmaster** in Detby.
- 1837-1841 Zunächst **Eisenbahningenieur** (technischer Zeichner) bei der London and Birmingham Railway, seit 1838 **Handwerker** bei der Birmingham and Gloucester Railway. Daneben wenig erfolgreiche Erfindungen auf dem Gebiet des Bergbaus und 1839-1842 Mitarbeiter der Zeitschrift „Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal“ (London). Nach der Fertigstellung der Eisenbahnlinie 1841 Entlassung.
- 1841-1844 Lebte wieder in **Derby**.
1842-1844 Beginn der Karriere als Wissenschaftler, Schriftsteller und als **Journalist** bei der radikalen Zeitung „**The Nonconformist**“ (London) 1842-1843 und bei der wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift „**Zoist**. A journal of cerebral physiology and mesmerism, and their application to human welfare“ (London) 1844. 1844 **Subeditor** des Organs der „Complete Suffrage Movement“ „**Pilot**“ (Birmingham).
- 1844-1848 1844-1846 als **Konstrukteur** tätig, 1847-1848 mit **Erfindungen** und technischen Entwicklungen beschäftigt.
- 1848-1889 Lebte in **London**.
1848-1853 **Subeditor** bei der Zeitschrift „**The Economist**“ (London). Nach einer größeren Erbschaft durch seinen 1853 verstorbenen Onkel Thomas Spencer Aufgabe des Redakteurspostens. Kontakte zu radikalen Journalisten wie dem anarchistischen Economist-Herausgeber Thomas Hodgskin (1787-1869) und zur Schriftstellerin Mary Ann Evans <Link: <http://www.barbwired.com/nadiaweb/mehap/evans.html>> (Pseudonym: George Eliot; 1819-1880). Außerdem seit 1852 regelmäßiger Mitarbeiter an „The Westminster Review“ (London).
- 1853-1903 **Privatgelehrter**, Journalist, Philosoph und Wissenschaftler. Viele seiner Werke erschienen als Artikelserien, etwa in „The Fortnightly Review“ (London). Regelmäßige Beiträge in der „The Contemporary Review“ (London-New York, N.Y.), „The Times“ (London), „The Nineteenth Century. A monthly review“ (London) und „Nature“ (London). Er lebte vielfach von der finanziellen Unterstützung durch Freunde und Bewunderer.
1867 In Zusammenarbeit mit David Duncan (1839-1923), Richard Scheppegg (1845-1903) und James Collier (1846-1925) Beginn der Arbeit an der Serie „**Descriptive Sociology** <Link: **Bibliografie Titel 1873ff.>**“, die nach dem Tod von Herbert Spencer von dessen

Nachlassverwaltern fortgeführt wurde.

1882 Reise in die USA.

1884 Lehnte die ihm angebotene Kandidatur bei der Wahl zum britischen Parlament für Leicester ab.

1889-1898 Lebte in **St. John's Wood**, Westminster nahe London.

Seit 1886 psychisch krank.

1898-1903 Lebte in **Brighton**.

8.12.1903 Gestorben in Brighton.

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Bücher und Herausgeberschaften

- **The proper sphere of government.** A reprint of a series of letters originally published in "The Nonconformist". London: Brittain 1843, 40 S. Artikelserie aus dem Jahr 1842.
- (Mitherausgeber) **Pilot** (Birmingham), 1844.
- (Mitherausgeber) **The Economist** (London), 1848-1853.
- **Social statics, or, The conditions essential to human happiness specified and the first of them developed.** London: Chapman 1851, viii, 476 S.
- (Anonym) **A theory of population, deduced from the general law of animal fertility.** [London: Woodfall 1852], 35 S.
- **Over-legislation.** Reprinted, with additions, from The Westminster Review, for July, 1853. London: Chapman 1854 (= Chapman's library for the people. 11.), 42 S.
- **The principles of psychology.** London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans 1855, viii, 620 S. Zur späteren, vollständig überarbeiteten Ausgabe in 2 Bänden siehe Band 4 und 5 des „System of synthetic philosophy“ (London 1862-1896).
- **Railway morals and railway policy.** Reprinted from the "Edinburgh Review", with additions and a postscript by the author. London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans 1855 (= The traveller's library. 89.), 116 S. Artikel aus dem Jahr 1854.
- **Essays. Scientific, political and speculative.** Reprinted, chiefly from the quarterly reviews. London: Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans and Roberts (später: London-Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate) 1858-1874 (Die Bände 1 und 2 später auch unter dem Titel: **Illustrations of universal progress. A series of discussions**), 3 Bände:
 - ◆ [Volume 1:] **Essays. Scientific, political and speculative.** Reprinted, chiefly from the quarterly reviews. London: Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans and Roberts 1858, vi, 435 S.
 - ◆ Volume 2: **Essays. Scientific, political and speculative. Second series.** London-Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate 1863, vi, 362 S.
 - ◆ Volume 3: **Essays. Scientific, political, and speculative. New edition. A third series of essays.** London-Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate 1874, ix, 366 S.
- **Education. Intellectual, moral, and physical.** New York, N.Y.: Appleton [1861], xviii, 283 S.
- **[A system of synthetic philosophy.** London-Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate 1862-1896], 10 Bände in 15 Bänden:
 - ◆ [Volume 1]: **First principles.** London 1862 [= A system of synthetic philosophy. 1.], xii, 503 S.
 - ◆ Volume 2: **Principles of biology. Volume 1.** [1864] (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 2.), viii, 492 S.
 - ◆ Volume 3: **Principles of biology. Volume 2.** [1867] (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 3.), viii, 569 S.
 - ◆ [Volume 4]: **The principles of psychology. 2nd edition. Volume 1, Part I-V: The data of psychology, the inductions of psychology, general synthesis, special synthesis, physical synthesis.** 1870 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 4.), xii, 635 S. Vollständig überarbeitete Ausgabe der Erstauflage von 1855.
 - ◆ Volume 5: **The principles of psychology. 2nd edition. Volume 2, Part VI-VIII: Special analysis, general analysis, corollaries.** 1872 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 5.), viii, 648 S. Vollständig überarbeitete Ausgabe der Erstauflage London 1855.
 - ◆ [Volume 6]: **The principles of sociology. Volume 1: Part I: The data of sociology. Part II: The inductions of sociology. Part III: The domestic relations.** 1876.
 - ◆ [Volume 7/1]: **Ceremonial institutions. Being part IV of The principles of sociology. The first portion of volume 2.** 1879, ii, 237 S.
 - ◆ [Volume 7/2]: **Political institutions. Being part V of The principles of sociology. The concluding portion of volume 2.** 1882, iii S., S. 230-770.

- ◆ [Volume 8/1]: **Ecclesiastical institutions. Being part VI of The principles of sociology.** 1885, v S., S. 671-853.
- ◆ [Volume 8/2,1]: **The principles of sociology. Volume 3: Part VI: Ecclesiastical institutions. Part VII: Professional institutions. Part VIII: Industrial institutions.** 1885 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 8.), S. 671-853.
- ◆ [Volume 8/2,2]: **The principles of sociology. Volume 3: Part VI: Ecclesiastical institutions. Part VII: Professional institutions. Part VIII: Industrial institutions.** 1896 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 8.), viii, 635 S.
- ◆ Volume 9,[1]: **The principles of ethics. Volume 1: Part I: The data of ethics. Part II: The inductions of ethics. Part III: The ethics of individual life.** 1879 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 9.), vi, 288 S.
- ◆ Volume 9,[2]: **The principles of ethics. Part I-III: The data of ethics. The inductions of ethics. The ethics of individual life.** 1893 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 9.), xii, 487 S.
- ◆ [Volume 10,1]: **Justice. Being part IV. of The principles of ethics.** 1891 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 10.), viii, 292 S.
- ◆ [Volume 10,2]: **The principles of ethics. Part IV-VI: Justice. Negative beneficence. Positive beneficence. Appendices.** 1893 (= A system of synthetic philosophy. 10.), xii, 487, 14 S.
- **The classification of the sciences. To which are added reasons for dissenting from the philosophy of M. [Auguste] Comte.** London: Williams and Norgate 1864, 48 S.
- **The study of sociology.** London-New York, N.Y.: Appleton 1873 [recte 1874] (= The international scientific series. 5.), xiv, 423 S.
- **Descriptive sociology, or, Groups of sociological facts. Classified and arranged by Herbert Spencer.** Compiled and abstracted by David Duncan, Richard Scheppig and James Collier [et al.]. London: Williams and Norgate 1873-1934, 20 Bände (zu Lebzeiten Herbert Spencers erschienen 1873-1881 acht Bände; die Ausgaben seiner Nachlassverwalter wurden mit * gekennzeichnet):
Division I: Uncivilized societies
 - ◆ [Volume 3a]: **Part 1: Types of lowest races, Negritto races, and Malayo-Polynesian races.** Compiled and abstracted by David Duncan. 1874, ii, 63 S.
 - * [Volume 3b]: **Part 1: Types of lowest races, Negritto races and Malayo-Polynesian races.** Compiled and abstracted upon the plan organized by Herbert Spencer by David Duncan. Edited by Henry R[ichard] Tedder. 1925 (= Descriptive sociology.), 152 S. Aktualisierte, stark veränderte Ausgabe.
 - * Volume 3[c]: **John Garstang: The heritage of Solomon. An historical introduction to the sociology of ancient Palestine.** [1934], xv, 439 S.
 - ◆ [Volume 4a]: **Part 2: African races.** Compiled and abstracted by David Duncan. 1875, ii, 47 S.
 - * [Volume 4b]: **Part 2: African races (Pygmies, Bantu, Equatorial hybrid tribes, Sudanic peoples, Nilotics, Nilo-Hamitics, Fulani, Khoisan).** Compiled and abstracted upon the plan organized by Herbert Spencer, by E[mil] Torday. Issued by Mr. Spencer's trustees (T[homas] W[alter] Hill, editor). A re-issue of the volume originally compiled by Dr. David Duncan, entirely rewritten. London: Williams and Norgate 1930, iv, 385 S. Praktisch neu geschriebene Ausgabe.
 - ◆ [Volume 5]: **Part 3: Asiatic races.** 1876, ii, 58 S.
 - ◆ [Volume 6]: **Part 4: American races.** 1878, ii, lxi, 56 S.**Division II: Civilized societies, extinct or decayed**
 - ◆ [Volume 2]: **Part 1: Ancient Mexicans, Central Americans, Chibchas, and ancient Peruvians.** Compiled and abstracted by Richard Scheppig. 1874, ii, 72 S.
 - ◆ [Volume 7]: **Part 2: Hebrews and Phoenicians.** Compiled and abstracted by Richard Scheppig. 1880, ii, 122 S.
 - * [Volume 10]: **Part 3: Greeks. Hellenic era.** Compiled and abstracted by J[ohn] P[entland] Mahaffy and W[illiam] A[lexander] Goligher. Edited by H[enry] R[ichard] Tedder. 1910, ii, 75 S.
 - * Volume 11: **Part 11: Ancient Egyptians.** Compiled and abstracted upon the plan organized by Herbert Spencer by Sir W[illiam Matthew] Flinders Petrie. Issued by Mr. Spencer's trustees. 1925 (= Descriptive sociology. 11.), 79 S.
 - * Volume 12: **Hellenistic Greeks.** Compiled and abstracted by J[ohn] P[entland] Mahaffy and W[illiam] A[lexander] Goligher. 1928 (= Descriptive sociology. 12.), 94 S.
 - * Volume 13: **Reuben Levy: Mesopotamia. (The ancient inhabitants of the Tigris-Euphrates lands.)** Compiled and abstracted upon the plan organized by Herbert Spencer. 1929, 49 S.

- * [Volume 15]: **Romans**. Abstracted by E[rnest] H[enry] Alton and W[illiam] A[lexander] Goligher. 1934, 339 S.
- Division III: Civilized societies, recent or still flourishing**
- ◆ [Volume 1]: **Part 1. English**. Compiled and abstracted by James Collier. 1873, viii, 70 S.
- ◆ [Volume 8]: **Part 2: French**. Compiled and abstracted by James Collier. 1881, ii, 158 S.
- * [Volume 9]: **Part 3: Chinese**. Compiled and abstracted upon the plan organized by Herbert Spencer by E[dward] T[heodore] C[halmers] Werner. Edited by Henry R[ichard] Tedder. 1910, iv, 312 S.
- * **Reuben Levy: An introduction to the sociology of Islam**. The present work was undertaken at the request of the trustees of Mr. Herbert Spencer in continuance of his Descriptive sociology. **Volume 1**. 1931 (= Herbert Spencer's Descriptive sociology, continued by his trustees.), viii, 410 S. Spätere Ausgabe unter dem Titel: **The social structure of Islam**.
- * **Reuben Levy: An introduction to the sociology of Islam**. The present work was undertaken at the request of the trustees of Mr. Herbert Spencer in continuance of his Descriptive sociology. **Volume 2**. 1933 (= Herbert Spencer's Descriptive sociology, continued by his trustees.). Spätere Ausgabe unter dem Titel: **The social structure of Islam**.
- * [Volume 19]: **J[ay] Rumnay: Herbert Spencer's sociology. A study in the history of social theory, to which is appended a bibliography of Spencer and his work**. With a preface by Morris Ginsberg. [1934] (= Herbert Spencer's Descriptive sociology, continued by his trustees.), xvi, 357 S.
- (Mit W[illiam] H[enry] Lyttelton) **Sins of trade and business** by W.H. Lyttelton, **and, The morals of trade** by Herbert Spencer. London: Isbister 1874, vi, 85 S.
- **The man versus the state, containing "The new Toryism", "The coming slavery", "The sins of legislators", and "The great political superstition"**. Reprinted from the Contemporary Review, with a postscript. London: Williams and Norgate 1884, ii, 113 S.
- (Mit Frederic Harrison) **The nature and reality of religion. A controversy between Frederic Harrison and Herbert Spencer**. With an introduction, notes, and an appendix on the religious value of the unknowable by [Eugène] Count [Goblet] d'Alviella. New York, N.Y.: Appleton 1885, 218 S. Das Werk wurde später von Herbert Spencer zurückgezogen.
- **The factors of organic evolution**. Reprinted, with additions, from The Nineteenth Century, April and May 1886. London-Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate 1887, iv, 76 S.
- **A rejoinder to professor [August] Weismann**. Reprinted from the Contemporary Review. London: Williams and Norgate [1893], 29 S.
- **The inadequacy of "natural selection"**. Reprinted from the Contemporary Review. London: Williams and Norgate [1893], 69 S.
- **Aphorisms from the writings of Herbert Spencer**, selected and arranged by Julia Raymond Gingell. London: Chapman and Hall 1894, xii, 170 S.
- **Mr. Herbert Spencer and the Land Restoration League. Correspondence between Mr. Spencer and the general secretary of the league [i.e. Frederic Verinder]**, mostly reprinted from the London Daily Chronicle, August, September, and October, 1894. London: Offices of the English Land Restoration League 1894 (= Land Restoration tracts. 1.), 16 S.
- **Weismannism once more**. Reprinted from the "Contemporary Review" with a postscript. London: Williams and Norgate 1894, 24 S.
- **Various fragments**. London-Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate 1897, 156 S.
- **Facts and comments**. London: Williams and Norgate 1902, vi, 205 S.
- **An autobiography**. London: Williams and Norgate 1904, 2 Bände:
 - ◆ **Volume 1**. 1904, xii, 556 S.
 - ◆ **Volume 2**. 1904, ix, 541 S.
- **Essays on education and kindred subjects**. London / New York, N.Y.: Dent / Dutton 1910 (= Everyman's library. Essays.), xxi, 333 S.
- **Herbert Spencer on education**. Edited by F[ranis] A[lexander] Cavenagh. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1932, xxxiii, 233 S.
- **Literary style and music. Including two short essays on gracefulness and beauty**. London: Watts [1950] (= The Thinker's library.), x, 119 S.
- **The works of Herbert Spencer**. Osnabrück: Zeller 1966, 21 Bände:

- ◆ Volume 1: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 1: First principles.** Reprint of the edition 1904. 1966, xx, 492 S.
- ◆ Volume 2: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 2: The principles of biology. Volume 1.** Reprint of the edition 1898. 1966, xii, 706 S.
- ◆ Volume 3: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 3: The principles of biology. Volume 2.** Reprint of the edition 1899. 1966, xiii, 660 S.
- ◆ Volume 4: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 4: The principles of psychology. Volume 1.** Reprint of the edition 1899. 1966, xiv, 640 S.
- ◆ Volume 5: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 5: The principles of psychology. Volume 2.** Reprint of the edition 1899. 1966, viii, 762 S.
- ◆ Volume 6: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 6: The principles of sociology. Volume 1.** Reprint of the edition 1904. 1966, xii, 883 S.
- ◆ Volume 7: **A system of synthetic philosophy. Volume 7: The principles of sociology. Volume 2.** Reprint of the edition 1902. 1966, x, 706 S.
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- ◆ Volume 15: **Essays. Scientific, political, and speculative. Volume 3.** Reprint of the edition 1891. 1966, 516 S.
- ◆ Volume 16: **Education. Intellectual, moral, and physical.** Reprint of the edition 1890. 1966, 197 S.
- ◆ Volume 17: **The inadequacy of "natural selection". A rejoinder to professor Weismann. Weismann once more.** Reprint from "The Contemporary Review" 1893-94. 1966, 69 & S. 93-808.
- ◆ Volume 18: **Various fragments.** Reprint of the edition 1890. 1966, 237 S.
- ◆ Volume 19: **Facts and comments.** Reprint of the edition 1902. 1966, vi, 213 S.
- ◆ Volume 20: **Autobiography. Volume 1.** Reprint of the edition 1904. 1966, xii, 556 S.
- ◆ Volume 21: **Autobiography. Volume 2.** Reprint of the edition 1904. 1966, ix, 542 S.
- **Structure, function and evolution.** Edited and with an introductory essay by Stanislav Andreski. London: Joseph 1971 (= Tutor books, the making of sociology series.), vii, 257 S.
- **Herbert Spencer on social evolution. Selected writings.** Edited and with an introduction by J[ohn] D[avid] Y[eaton] Peel. Chicago, Ill.-London: University of Chicago Press 1972 (= The heritage of sociology.), li, 270 S. Werkauswahl.
- **Collected writings.** London / Bristol: Routledge / Thoemmes 1996, 12 Bände:
 - ◆ Volume 1: **William Henry Hudson: An introduction to the philosophy of Herbert Spencer.** Reprint of the 2nd edition London, Chapman and Hall, 1897. 1996, ix, 234 S.
 - ◆ Volume 2: **David Duncan: The life and letters of Herbert Spencer.** Reprint of the 1908 edition, London, Methuen. 1996, xiii, 621 S.
 - ◆ Volume 3: **Social statics.** With a new introduction by Michael Taylor. Facsimile of the edition published London, J. Chapman, 1851. 1996, xv, viii, 476 S.
 - ◆ Volume 4: **The principles of psychology.** With a new introduction by Michael Taylor. Facsimile of the edition published London, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1855. 1996, xix, viii, 620 S.
 - ◆ Volume 5: **First principles.** With a new introduction by Michael Taylor. Facsimile of the edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1867. 1996, xvii, xvi, 559 S.
 - ◆ Volume 6: **The study of sociology.** With a new introduction by Michael Taylor. Facsimile of the edition published London, H.S. King & Co., 1873. 1996, xix, viii, 423 S.

- ◆ Volume 7: **The data of ethics.** Justice. With a new introduction by Michael Taylor. Facsimile of edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1879. Facsimile of edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1891. 1996, xvii, vi, 288, viii, 291 S.
- ◆ Volume 8: **Political Institutions.** Facsimile of the edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1882. 1996, ii S., S. 230-770.
- ◆ Volume 9: **Essays. Scientific, political, and speculative. Volume 1.** Facsimile of the edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1891. 1996, v, 578 S.
- ◆ Volume 10: **Essays. Scientific, political, and speculative. Volume 2.** Facsimile of the edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1891. 1996, 466 S.
- ◆ Volume 11: **Essays. Scientific, political, and speculative. Volume 3.** Facsimile of the edition published London, Williams and Norgate, 1891. 1996, 516 S.
- ◆ Volume 12: **Herbert Spencer. Contemporary assessments.** Edited and introduced by Michael W. Taylor. 1996, getrennte Seitenzählung (S. 159-175, 41-81, 74-92, 353-378, 401-407, 49-98, 347-364, 7-22, 25-53, 745-769, 63-82, 200-213, 314-327, 525-543, 354-371, 506-524, 57-92, 423-458, 216-226, 49-55). Sammlung von Artikeln über Herbert Spencer.

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Reinhard Müller
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