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# Beyond the Ruling Class: Strategic Elites in Modern Society

*Suzanne Keller*

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**Suzanne Keller : Beyond the Ruling Class: Strategic Elites in Modern Society** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Ruling Class: Strategic Elites in Modern Society:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Ruling ElitesBy Mr. Robert A. GorhamA lost gem that should be read along with C Wright Mills' 'The Power Elites' and Charles Beard's 'An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.' Why has Wall Street and the Banking Industry both benefited from this most recent (2008-09)financial meltdown while unemployment still lags, pension and retirement accounts have been busted and

foreclosures still run rampant? Simply because the Ruling elites take care of their own. For those that preach or believe this is a classless society, this book is an eye opener towards defeating that fallacy. Which is probably why it has been allowed to go out of print.

Influential minorities have existed in some form in all human societies. Throughout history, such elites have evoked varied responses--respect, hostility, fear, envy, imitation, but never indifference. While certain elite groups have been of only passing historical importance, strategic elites, whose members are national and international leaders, today are ultimately responsible for the realization of social goals and for the continuity of the social order in a swiftly changing world. This volume, which first appeared in 1963, marked a major advance in our theoretical understanding of these elites, why they are needed, how they operate, and what effect they have on society. Drawing upon the work of such classical writers as Saint-Simon, Marx, Durkheim, Mosca, Pareto, and Michels, and such modern scholars as Mannheim, Lasswell, Aron, Mills, and Parsons, the author presents a challenging theory of elites that provides the framework for her examination of their co-existence, their social origins, and their rise and decline. The elites discussed here include political, diplomatic, economic, and military, as well as scientific, cultural, and religious ones. Systematically, the author surveys available empirical data concerning American society, and selected materials on Great Britain, Germany, the Soviet Union, and the developing nations of Asia and Africa. Written with clarity and distinction, *Beyond the Ruling Class* remains a thorough and provocative treatment, rich in empirical insights, of a subject that will compel the attention of political scientists, sociologists, and historians concerned with themes of power, influence, and leadership in national and international life. Her new introduction to *Beyond the Ruling Class* is at once an appraisal of the current status of elite studies and a careful self-evaluation of her efforts.

About the Author Suzanne Keller is professor of sociology at Princeton University, and author of *The Social Origins of Three Generations of American Business Leaders*; and coauthor with Donald Light of a major textbook, *Sociology*, now in its fourth edition.