Norbert Elias (1897-1990) is now recognised as one of the most profound sociological thinkers of the twentieth century, but he gained international recognition only towards the end of his very long life.

Johan Goudsblom is Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam.

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This much-needed volume introduces Elias's work as a whole to a new generation of scholars and students worldwide.

Includes a large proportion of otherwise inaccessible material.

An extensive, detailed bibliography guides the reader to primary sources in English and German.