

# COMPREHENDING SUICIDE

*Landmarks in 20th-Century Suicidology*

EDWIN S. SHNEIDMAN

American Psychological Association  
Washington, DC

# CONTENTS

Preface .....	ix
Acknowledgments .....	xiii
Introduction .....	3
I. Historical and Literary Insights .....	11
Chapter 1. Georges Minois .....	13
<i>History of Suicide: Voluntary Death in Western Culture</i>	
Chapter 2. A. Alvarez .....	23
<i>The Savage God: A Study of Suicide</i>	
II. Sociological Insights .....	31
Chapter 3. Emile Durkheim .....	33
<i>Suicide: A Study in Sociology</i>	
Chapter 4. Louis I. Dublin .....	49
<i>Suicide: A Sociological and Statistical Study</i>	
Chapter 5. Mamoru Iga .....	59
<i>The Thorn in the Chrysanthemum: Suicide and Economic Success in Modern Japan</i>	

III. Biological Insights .....	69
Chapter 6. David M. Stoff and J. John Mann .....	71
<i>The Neurobiology of Suicide: From the Bench to     the Clinic</i>	
IV. Psychiatric and Psychological Insights .....	87
Chapter 7. Karl A. Menninger .....	89
<i>Man Against Himself</i>	
Chapter 8. Jean Baechler .....	103
<i>Suicides</i>	
Chapter 9. Daniel Aaron .....	123
<i>The Inman Diary: A Public and Private Confession</i>	
Chapter 10. John T. Maltzberger and Mark J. Goldblatt .....	135
<i>Essential Papers on Suicide</i>	
V. Insights on Survivors and Volunteers .....	151
Chapter 11. Albert C. Cain .....	153
<i>Survivors of Suicide</i>	
Chapter 12. Chad Varah .....	167
<i>The Samaritans: Befriending the Suicidal</i>	
Chapter 13. George Howe Colt .....	179
<i>The Enigma of Suicide</i>	
Epilogue: This I Believe .....	197
Author Index .....	205
Subject Index .....	209
About the Author .....	215