

# Institutions

[Arnold]

Gehlen conceives of an institution as a regulatory agency, channeling human actions in much the same way as instincts channel animal behavior.

In other words, institutions provide procedures through which human conduct is patterned, compelled to go, in grooves deemed desirable by society.

And this trick is performed by making these grooves appear to the individual as the only possible ones.

**Peter L. Berger, *An Invitation to Sociology***