

Political Studies

Volume XXXIV Number 2 June 1986

Butterworths

Comparative Politics and Area Studies

R. Beer and J. E. Jacob (eds), *Language Policy and National Unity* (Totowa, N.J., Rowman and Allanheld, 1985), x + 244 pp., \$34.50 ISBN 0 86598 058 6.

The editors argue that 'the nature of state policy concerning language use . . . is crucial to understanding how societies maintain their internal cohesion'. Their objective is to explore the conditions under which government policies are effective (or otherwise) in managing the actual or potential divisive effects of language. This is done through the application of seven key variables or variable clusters to some 11 case studies in North America, Western Europe, and the Middle and Far East. By and large, the contributors follow the outline laid down by the editors: the historical background to the contemporary linguistic situation, the nature of language policy and reactions to it and some speculation on the future. The conclusion evaluates some theories on language and politics, and suggests some hypotheses which are tested against evidence from the case studies. The book is well structured, therefore, with a reasonable degree of integration. However, there are perhaps too many case studies for any to be developed in sufficient depth: though clearly and concisely written, they do veer towards being summary reports rather than detailed analyses. On the other hand, the book does stress an element of linguistic politics which has often been overlooked, and it is a useful introduction to the topic.

DEREK W. URWIN, *University of Warwick*

J. Clay and B. B. Schaffer (eds), *Room for Manoeuvre* (Aldershot, Gower, 1985), iii + 209 pp., £17.00 ISBN 0 435 83759 1, £7.50 pbk ISBN 0 435 83760 5.

This is a very useful collection of essays by Percy Selwyn, Edward Clay, Florence McCarthy, John Biggs, Martin Evans, Diana Hunt, Raymond Apthorpe and the editors. The theme—not always clearly illustrated in the chapters—is that policy can achieve things and that different policies make differences. But, as is often the case, there is a great gulf between stated policy intention and outcome. Each chapter contributes to our understanding of why this is the case. What becomes crucial—as the late Bernard Schaffer shows in his concluding chapter—is that the policy process is technical and always will be: there is no point in pretending it is technical, or that it can be divided into two parts, policy-making and implementation. And reform is about recognizing ' . . . where interests are grounded, lines of opposition are drawn, the pain and guilt felt and hidden' (p. 183). There are chapters on the inadequacy of data to assess policies; on special planning units and how they can be by-passed or marginalized by 'bureaucracies' (that is, bureaucratic politics); on the dangers of using 'target groups' in rural development (for example, women in Bangladesh) which end up being excluded from developmental processes; on the failure to use sound local processes and institutions; on the politics of the Asian Development Bank and how this influenced its policy lending; on the political factors that influence project choice and design in IFAD; and on the 'gauges' of development policy which influence design and strategy. All the essays illustrate how important it is for those involved in policy to take responsibility and avoid using bureaucratic 'scapegoats' by putting the blame elsewhere. More self-awareness is called for and an ability to evaluate alternative policies and processes to be considered. The one limitation in the book is the rather dull style and tone of the writing. A pity from a teaching point of view, when the substantive concerns are so important.

ADRIAN LEFTWICH, *University of York*

Clark, *The Political Economy of Science and Technology* (Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1985), xii + 256 pp., £25.00 ISBN 0 631 14293 2, £8.95 pbk ISBN 0 631 14294 0.

This is a most useful volume, part introductory on the rôle of economic analysis in science and technology policy, part subtle but perceptive critique of the failings of related contemporary economic thinking. It is based on lectures given to postgraduates at the Sussex Science Policy Research Unit and, being eminently clear in its exposition, will certainly prove invaluable for those

approaching this area for the first time. It is also likely to be in demand amongst those who have long been engaged in some part of this field but who have never fully appreciated the field as a whole. A political perspective on science and technology policy would naturally look different, but it would be unfair to criticize a book for failing to deliver something the author has not promised, and certainly not when the latter is as unduly modest and as aware of the shortcomings of economic analysis as here. The treatment of economic theory and technological change, and also of science and technology in development, seemed particularly carefully done, and it was instructive to find here another reflective analyst making his way towards *biological* metaphors.

ROGER WILLIAMS, *University of Manchester*

Howard Davis and Richard Scase, *Western Capitalism and State Socialism* (Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1985), vi + 202 pp., £19.50 ISBN 0 631 14001 8, £7.50 pbk ISBN 0 631 14002 6.

Davis and Scase have written a not very helpful introduction to western capitalism and state socialism. It is an even mixture of an introduction to Marxist political economy and an introduction to the sociology of stratification with some loose empirical illustrations. The two systems are compared and contrasted by précis of their historical development, types of stratification, national variations and characteristic crises. The sections on state socialism are the weakest. The Soviet Terror was in no sense 'less arbitrary' (p. 79) than the Jacobin Terror. Stalinist successes in post-war Eastern Europe were more than 'undoubtedly helped' by the presence of the Red Army (p. 82). The GNP data cited on p. 86 are examples of meaningless statistics. The analysis of stratification under state socialism too often appears as an exercise in re-educating an SWP neanderthal. There is otiose reference to some undefined 'pure socialism' (pp. 75 and 79). It is inadvisable to assert on p. 99 that it is difficult to obtain reliable data on income inequalities in state socialism systems and assert on p. 100 that there is 'no doubt' that such systems have redistributed incomes more than any social democratic governed capitalism. Apparently contradictory statements are made on state socialist accumulation rates (pp. 85 and 155). Davis and Scase's state socialist classes are Weberian classes, despite much puffing over social relations of production.

It is asserted that crises in western capitalism are economic, whereas those of state socialism are political. The material alluded to in Chapters 7 to 9 frequently refutes the utility of the distinction. The authors are not economists to judge by their willingness to take seriously Ernest Mandel's status as an economist, and the thesis that rising organic compositions of capital 'explain' falling profit rates. The last chapter is less than 17 pages on great themes of our time: new technology, unemployment, feminism, the internationalization of the globe, the Cold War and the 1981 riots in Britain all get a look in. The chapter is entitled 'New Cleavages and Conflicts?'. The question mark is the best part of the chapter. Both authors have written good books before, but their introduction to important questions is a disappointment.

BRENDAN O'LEARY, *London School of Economics*

Arjo Klamer, *The New Classical Macroeconomics* (Brighton, Wheatsheaf, 1984), xii + 265 pp., £6.95 pbk ISBN 0 7108 0707 4.

This is a fascinating book. Rather than write yet another turgid tome on economic theory, Arjo Klamer decided to conduct and reproduce a series of conversations with a number of American economists. These were primarily concerned with the development and present strengths and weaknesses of the new classical macroeconomics. But they also touched on other matters, such as why those interviewed first studied economics, who, or what, influenced their intellectual development, their relations with other economists and with other social science disciplines. The economists interviewed were all *notabili* and included, for example, Lucas, Sargent, Townsend, Tobin, Modigliani, Brunner, Gordon and Rapping.

A number of points arising from the book deserve special attention. First, the incredibly important impact of the rational expectations hypothesis on American economics, especially for the younger economists. Secondly, the significant divisions engendered in the discipline by this