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978-0-521-27062-5 - Organizing Interests in Western Europe: Pluralism, Corporatism,  
and the Transformation of Politics

Edited by Suzanne Berger

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## Cambridge Studies in Modern Political Economies

Editors

SUZANNE BERGER, ALBERT HIRSCHMAN, AND CHARLES MAIER

Organizing interests in Western Europe:  
pluralism, corporatism, and the  
transformation of politics

Sponsored by the Joint Committee on Western Europe of  
the Social Science Research Council and  
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# Organizing interests in Western Europe

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Edited by

**SUZANNE BERGER**

Department of Political Science

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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## Preface

This volume concludes the first phase of an ongoing investigation by the Joint Committee on Western Europe of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies into the structures and tendencies of the contemporary societies of Western Europe. The chapters reflect the diverse perspectives on interest groups of a dozen scholars working out of very different disciplinary, national, and political traditions. They also reflect three years of common effort; in the four meetings in which these essays were discussed, the authors were obliged to reconsider both premises and conclusions in order to respond to the questioning and alternative formulations offered by other participants.

Had each essay been written without the pressure to answer the common set of questions that emerged during the meetings, it would have been quite different from that presented here. The sessions thus not only produced a collection of essays more integrated by common concerns than the volumes that usually result from such conferences, but they also showed the possibility and intellectual promise of a mode of collaborative research that permits scholars with very different perspectives to work together, without the benefit of a single research project within which each would have an assigned role and without the presence of a single intellectual leader whose conceptions would orient the group. In trying to proceed without these elements, which have supported previous international research collaboration, we have undoubtedly lost a certain unity of conception and integration of the final product. But we believe these costs are justified when the counterpart is to challenge each scholar to reconsider old assumptions and to raise new questions for research.

We are especially grateful to the organizations that understood that funds for travel and international meetings were essential for a half-



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European, half-American group and therefore provided them: the Social Science Research Council, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Fundación Juan March (Madrid), and the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung (Cologne). Portions of two of the chapters appeared elsewhere: Chapter 3 (Berger) is reprinted with the permission of *Comparative Politics*; Chapter 4 (Hernes and Selvik) is reprinted with the permission of the publisher from Gudmund Hernes and Arne Selvik, "Local Corporatism," in Gene F. Summers and Arne Selvik, editors, *Nonmetropolitan Industrial Growth and Community Change* (Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Books, D. C. Heath & Co., 1979). Paul Levenson translated Chapter 11 (Salvati) from Italian. Finally, the participants feel particularly indebted to Robert A. Gates, Staff Associate of the Social Science Research Council, whose faith in the endeavor and unfailing support sustained the project from beginning to end.

Suzanne Berger

*Cambridge, Mass.*  
*January 1981*