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978-0-521-03343-5 - The Political Mobilization of the European Left, 1860-1980: The Class Cleavage

Stefano Bartolini

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# THE POLITICAL MOBILIZATION OF THE EUROPEAN LEFT, 1860–1980

In an in-depth comparative analysis, Stefano Bartolini studies the history of socialism and working-class politics in Western Europe. While examining the social contexts, organizational structures, and political developments of thirteen socialist experiences from the 1880s to the 1980s, he reconstructs the steps through which social conflict was translated and structured into an opposition, as well as how it developed its different organizational and ideological forms and how it managed more or less successfully to mobilize its reference groups politically. Bartolini provides a comparative framework that structures the wealth of material available on the history of each unit and allows him to assess the relative weight of the complex explanatory factors.

Stefano Bartolini is Professor of Comparative Political Institutions at the European University Institute in Florence. He has contributed articles to numerous journals and has edited and written several books, including *Identity, Competition, and Electoral Availability* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), for which he won the UNESCO Stein Rokkan Award.

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The Class Cleavage

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*a Bianca e Duccio,  
per il nostro tempo perduto*

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*To predict the presence of such movements was simple; to predict which ones would be strong and which ones weak, which ones unified and which ones split down the middle, required much more knowledge of national conditions and developments and a much more elaborate model of the historical interaction process.*

Stein Rokkan, 1970

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