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978-0-521-03396-1 - Schism and Solidarity in Social Movements: The Politics of Labor in the French Third Republic

Christopher K. Ansell

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Schism and Solidarity in Social Movements

Like many organizations and social movements, the Third Republic French labor movement exhibited a marked tendency toward schism into competing sectarian organizations. During the roughly fifty-year period from the fall of the Paris Commune to the creation of the powerful French Communist party, the French labor movement shifted from schism to broad-based solidarity and back to schism. Ansell analyzes the dynamic interplay between organization, ideology, and political mobilization that produced these shifts between schism and solidarity. The aim is not only to shed new light on the evolution of the Third Republic French labor movement, but also to develop a more generic understanding of schism and solidarity in organizations and social movements. This book builds on insights drawn from sociological analyses of Protestant sects and anthropological studies of segmentary societies, as well as from organization and social movement theory.

Christopher K. Ansell is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches organization theory and political sociology. He has published articles on political organization in a number of journals, including the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Politics & Society*, *Studies in American Political Development*, *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies*, and *Governance*.

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*To Jeannine Mathyer Ansell
and the memory of
Robert James Ansell*

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Acknowledgments

Upon completing this book, I feel a bit like I imagine a French journeyman may have felt after completing his *tour de France* – that obligatory journey around France to hone his skills. It was quite an ordeal, but he knows he is a better craftsman now than when he started. He is also highly aware of the fact that he could neither have developed these skills nor completed the trip without the sustained help of others. My *tour de France* began at the University of Chicago. In my mind's eye, that experience is forever associated with trudging through wintery Hyde Park to the weekly meeting of the Workshop on Organizations and State-building. Under the inspired leadership of John Padgett (master craftsman), that workshop became my intellectual hometown, the place where the ideas for this book were hatched and nurtured. Sincere thanks to John for his continuing guidance and unswerving commitment to this project over many years. Many others also contributed to the special intellectual atmosphere at Chicago, especially Camille Bussette, José Cheibub, Roger Gould, J. David Greenstone, Frances Haman, Gary Herrigel, Roland Hsu, Antoine Joseph, David Laitin, Walter Mattli, Paul McLean, Janet Morford, Adam Przeworski, Bill Sewell, Bernie Silberman, Natalie Silberman-Wainwright, Bat Sparrow, Greg Vince, Pat Vince, and Mark Wainwright. In particular, David Greenstone had a profound influence on this book, although he died of cancer at a very early stage in my research. I recall David telling me once that the project needed a “little more Tocqueville.” I ignored him at the time, but I hope he might be less critical of the final product.

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money ran out, I was frantic to complete some critical archival research before returning to Chicago. There was no money for photocopies or even Metro fare. Suzanne walked from the Twentieth Arrondissement to the Marais every day for two weeks and spent eight hours a day hand copying the elaborate orthography of French clerks. Love knows no bounds!