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Capitalist Diversity and Change

Colin Crouch

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Over the last decade, the neo-institutionalist literature on comparative capitalism has developed into an influential body of work. This book assesses this literature and proposes a major re-orientation of the field. It critiques many aspects of this work and finds a way of modelling how creative actors trying to achieve change — institutional entrepreneurs — tackle these constraints. Central to the account is the concept of governance, as it is by recombining governance mechanisms that these entrepreneurs must achieve their goals. In seeking how to analyse the spaces in which they operate, the book criticises and deconstructs some dominant approaches in socio-political analysis: to typologies, to elective affinity and complementarity, to path dependence. It develops a theory of governance modes, which includes potentially decomposing them into their core components. Finally, it proposes a reorientation of the neo-institutionalist research programme to take more account of detailed diversity and potentiality for change. The book is primarily theoretical, but it makes liberal use of examples, particularly from studies of local economic development and politics.

Conclusion

Ian Clark

in *International Legitimacy and World Society*

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The first part of the conclusion summarizes the findings from the historical cases. These fall into four categories. The first is where a strong world society constituency is able to influence the policy of a leading state, or group of leading states, as in the case of the slave trade or

social justice in 1919. In the second case, the same holds true, but it is actually the leading states that proactively encourage world society action, as with human rights at San Francisco. In the third case, as at The Hague, there was no specific state 'norm entrepreneur'. Fourthly, there is the negative case where the state sponsor was not strong enough to have the norm accepted, as with Japan and racial equality in 1919. Theoretically, the argument points to a degree of normative assimilation between international and world society, and a corresponding degree of social integration. The relationship is one of complementariness rather than displacement. This develops English School discussions of the topic. However, there is a warning that past coalitions between world society groups and leading states — that seem to have stimulated humanitarian norms — could in the future promote less attractive norms.

The Evolution of New Markets

Paul Geroski

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Sheds some light on how markets develop. In particular, it suggests that the 'new economy' is not much different from the 'old economy' and that in general, the early evolution of markets can significantly shape their later structure. The main arguments are elaborated in four chapters, each of them extensively illustrated with product-case studies (internet, automobiles, television, or mobile phones, etc.). Ch. 2 explores the drivers of innovation and concludes that new technologies are basically pushed on to the market from the supply side. Ch. 3 looks at the dynamics of entry in a new market. Ch. 4 deals with the emergence of a dominant design as a consensus good. Ch. 5 shows how the dominant design shapes the nature of the competition in the new mass market and describes the logistical growth pattern characteristic of most new markets. The last chapter is devoted to sketch out the basic features of market evolution that follow from the events in the early stages of development.

Information and Organization

Mark Casson

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Offers a vision of the economy as a system of structured information flow. The structuring is effected by institutions, and in particular, by firms, which specialize in processing the information needed to allocate resources properly. Market-making firms that intermediate between producers and consumers by developing brands, are particularly important in this respect. Firms are the institutional embodiment of the visions of the entrepreneurs who found them. Firms grow and decline, creating a highly flexible structure of information processing in society, which evolves and adapts as circumstances change. The book uses these general concepts to analyse the historical development of a number of specialist information subsystems, including business networks, industrial districts, and trading empires.

Introduction

D. Hugh Whittaker

in *Comparative Entrepreneurship: The UK, Japan, and the Shadow of Silicon Valley*

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Do entrepreneurs everywhere share the same goals? Are entrepreneurship processes similar and equally collaborative? Or does the environment dictate all these aspects for entrepreneurship? This book looks into the levels of entrepreneurship and how they differ from each other by presenting a comparative study of the behaviour of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship in the UK and in Japan. The former is associated with liberal market economies (LMEs) while the latter is associated with coordinated market economies (CMEs). The book will focus on high-tech manufacturing in order to examine the systematic differences in innovation and the processes of entrepreneurship. The findings of two original surveys and twenty-five case interviews for both countries are presented in order to examine the careers of the entrepreneurs; opportunity and business creation; founders; attitudes towards growth and risk; research, development, and innovation; competitive strategies; growth limitations, leadership and HRM, and collaborations.

A Political History of Crime on the Congressional Agenda

Lisa L. Miller

in *The Perils of Federalism: Race, Poverty, and the Politics of Crime Control*

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The nationalization of crime policy issues is a relatively new phenomenon in American history, but has foundations that extend back to the Civil War. This chapter develops a political history of crime's place on the national agenda that lays the groundwork for understanding the appeal of crime as a national political issue and the transformation of the interest group environment from local to national arenas. The chapter highlights the shifting jurisdictional terrain between state and national governments in the 19th and 20th centuries and the opportunities these shifts provided for expanding national attention to crime and violence. In particular, the chapter focuses on the historic use of the crime issue as a symbolic political lever that served to bolster narrow interest groups, policy entrepreneurs, racial hierarchies, and federal law enforcement bureaucracies, simplifying problem definitions and narrowing policy options in the process.

Cluster Genesis

Pontus Braunerhjelm and Maryann P. Feldman (eds)

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This book examines the origins and emergence of technology-based industrial clusters — regional concentrations of related firms and organizations — in order to understand the forces that promoted economic development. Many places attempt to emulate the world's most famous industrial cluster Silicon Valley, with its rich institutional landscape of engaged and leveraged research universities, high-flying local venture capitalists, world class supporting business and legal consultants, and rich collaborative networks. While mature clusters may look similar, what really matters is the process by which clusters come into existence. But there is little understanding of such processes, and little guidance provided on the role of policies in promoting cluster emergence. The book attempts to bridge this gap in the literature by focusing on the early origins of high-technology cluster in Europe, the United States, and China, and the ensuing policy implications. The

book is organized around three main themes: Creation Myths Revisited, Considering the Development Cluster Context, and Crafting Cluster and Economic Development Policy. The empirical analyses suggest that clusters that grow rapidly as compared to the less successful ones are distinguished by vigorous entrepreneurial activity and the active building of institutions aided by the forces of agglomeration economies.

State and Civil Society

Leonardo Morlino

in *Democracy Between Consolidation and Crisis: Parties, Groups, and Citizens in Southern Europe*

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A whole picture of interest associations and their relationships with party and state is provided for the four Southern European countries. Unions, associations of industrial entrepreneurs, and associations of landowners receive special attention. The 'top-down' direction of consolidation process is presented with its main dimensions.

Ireland: Party Loyalists with a Personal Base

Michael Gallagher

in *The Political Class in Advanced Democracies: A Comparative Handbook*

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The Irish political class is rather small, encompassing very few positions outside the group of elected national parliamentarians. Because of the distinctive electoral system with preferential voting (PR-STV), MPs have to combine elements of 'entrepreneurs' and 'backbenchers'. While electoral survival and career advancement depends on the party, which demands strict loyalty, the individual MP must also build a personal home base in the local party organization and among the voters in the district. The cumulation of local and national elected offices is common: local offices provide both an entry point into a political career as well as help to sustain visibility even after a rise to higher levels. Because of their limited resources, party organizations cannot provide any safe fallback-positions or alternative career paths.

United States: A Political Class of Entrepreneurs

Jens Borchert and Gary Copeland

in *The Political Class in Advanced Democracies: A Comparative Handbook*

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American politicians have about the greatest choice in terms of the electoral offices they want to pursue. However, only a minority of these numerous offices is professionalized. Moreover, while partisan coordination of political careers was true in the second half of the nineteenth century, it no longer is. Today American politicians largely are political entrepreneurs running their own political careers with the help of other professions that have developed around professional politics and of interest groups, which collect and donate most of the money needed for electoral campaigns. The most highly prized office is that of a member of Congress. Professional politicians in the United States, hence, are mostly professional legislators. It is here that long careers can be realized whereas executive terms tend to be rather short. Changes in the situation of politicians occur most frequently as an often-unintended result of institutional reform, which has been high on the agenda for quite some time.