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Title: Rival Capitalists: International Competitiveness in the United States, Japan and Western Europe. (book reviews)

Date: 9/22/1994; **Publication:** Pacific Affairs; **Author:** Carlile, Lonny E.

IN THIS BOOK Jeffrey Hart compares and contrasts the "state-societal arrangements" in Japan, France, the U.K., West Germany, and the U.S. in an attempt to explain the relative national competitiveness of the steel, auto, and semiconductor industries in these countries. Readers familiar with the work of Peter Hall, Peter Katzenstein, John Zysman, and others will recognize the line of approach and will already have been exposed to much of the information presented in the work. What is distinctive about Hart's work is the breadth of his comparative undertaking and his stress on the need for a balance of influence among state, labor and business in attaining competitiveness. According to Hart, such balance was attained in West Germany and Japan but not in labor-dominated Britain, state-dominated France, and the business-dominated U.S.

Among Asia specialists, the book will probably be of greatest interest to readers who would like a concise introduction to the types of argument that have been developed by comparative political economists working primarily on the Western European region, and such arguments might be applied to Japan. It would also be useful as a text for a course on Japanese or comparative political economy.

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