

from the assumption that the relationship of the UK to the EC is mediated by its own national political system and that the institutions of British domestic politics play a crucial role in determining policy content. It investigates different political institutions, central and local government, the legislature, political parties and interest groups, as well as public opinion, so as to shed light on three specific themes: the increasingly difficult role played by the central government as a 'gate-keeper' between the British political system and the EC; the regular adaptation to EC membership across the administration and political structure; and Britain's 'semi-detachment' from the mainstream of EC integration.

These two books are useful additions to the literature on the politics of the EC and incidentally underline the high level of collaboration that exists within the University Association of Contemporary European Studies.

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**Rival Capitalists: International Competitiveness in the United States, Japan and Western Europe.** By JEFFREY A. HART. London and Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1992. Pp.x + 305 \$39.95. ISBN 0-8014-9949-6.

The large and growing literature on national policies for international trade competitiveness has, in Jeffrey Hart's *Rival Capitalists*, another first-rate volume of integrated comparative studies. The book combines a manageable sample of cases (the USA, France, Germany, Japan and the UK) with an historical perspective reaching back to World War II. It also offers the reader a sector-specific approach, by focusing on changes in the national vitality of steel, automobile and semi-conductor industries, because, in the author's words, 'they represent three distinct historical periods of industrial change' (p.ix).

Hart's thesis is that 'exclusive focus' on government policies in the effort to explain variation in industrial performance is inherently misleading, and that a credible comparative effort in analysis must necessarily be sensitive to the organisation of government, business and labour in the countries under study – most especially with reference to the ease or difficulty with which new technologies are brought to bear in the struggle to win and defend national and international markets. It is an altogether respectable thesis, if one ignores (as one should in this case) the implied criticism that comparative studies of industrial policy have hitherto given too much weight to the degree and quality of state intervention in order to account for success in the trade of consumer durables. From Jack Hayward to Peter Hall and John Zysman, however, the best works in the field have not been culpable for any such error. In his opening preface Hart is himself guilty of a self-consciousness that produces such generalisations in the effort to explain the book's place alongside the existing scholarship. For this reader at least, the ritual was unnecessary.

Yet this is a minor criticism of a solid and useful book. In Chapter 1 Hart elaborates on and structures the book's central argument, before turning to a series of nation-by-nation descriptions of the constitution of government-

industry relations and their impact on trade competitiveness. The German experience is, for Hart, particularly useful in illustrating that it is not necessary to look to Japan as a model singularly worthy of emulation by governments now grappling with the problem of enhancing national industrial trade performance. To the extent that German governments have 'studiously avoided' the variety of administrative guidance for industry that is routine in France and Japan and yet have presided over a vibrant export economy, the Federal Republic would seem to indicate that not quite every feature of government and industrial culture in either Britain or the United States is stuff for the scrapheap.

Despite the complexities involved in any such study, I found the organisation of Hart's book to be clear and logical. Its writing is lucid, its argument convincing. Best of all, the book is rich with the kind of illustrative case studies that make it a valuable heuristic tool for senior undergraduate and graduate studies in international political economy.

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**Shepherd of Democracy? America and Germany in the Twentieth Century.** Edited by CARL C. HODGE and CATHAL C. NOLAN. Westport, Conn., and London: Greenwood Press, 1992. Pp.xxiii + 219, biblio, index. £37.95 (hardback). ISBN 0-313-27945-4.

The editors introduce this collection by explaining that it 'is not intended primarily for the specialist, but for the more general reader interested in the workings of democratic foreign policy'. Specifically, it aims to assess how far American policy after 1945 'shepherded Germany's conversion into a liberal-capitalist democracy'. This is a crucial question – the editors assert very plausibly that democratic states are less likely to provoke wars than non-democratic ones – and since they also argue that promoting democracy has been a fundamental American objective since 1945, they conclude that 'the future of democracy in Germany is a central test of *the* major premise of US foreign policy.' The themes of the book, consequently, are at the same time very broad (as in Michael Doyle's challenging survey of 'liberal internationalism' from Immanuel Kant to Helmut Kohl) and quite narrowly focused (as in the majority of the contributions, which consider American policy towards Germany in successive phases, from Woodrow Wilson to George Bush).

The contributors include some of the leading American authorities on German foreign policy, but the limited space at their disposal (about a dozen pages each), and perhaps also an editorial mandate to write for 'the more general reader', seem to have inhibited their ability to say anything very profound. Wolfram Hanrieder's survey of Washington-Bonn relations in the 1970s and 1980s has some interesting insights on the significance of *Ostpolitik* and on the nature of Germany's international economic leverage. On the other hand Jean Edward Smith's account of the decision to divide Germany, even though it concentrates in some detail on the period 1946–47, almost certainly goes too far in suggesting that the 'breakthrough' of the Clay-Sokolovsky