borhoods, family relations, and child training of the blue-collar worker with the last section treating his leisure time pursuits, politics, mental and physical health, religion and retirement.

Shostak does not accomplish all that he sets out to do. While the fifteen chapters of this book are divided into four major sections, they have little apparent continuity or relation to the four questions he poses in the Preface. His implicit contrast with white-collar workers is for the most part incomplete. Reference points are not established for “as well off” in terms of a time period or some other group of workers or for who the “others” are in his first question. The last chapter, in answering the questions developed in the Preface and suggesting institutional reforms, does not blend in with the body of the book. However, the readability and scholarly coverage in the fourteen chapters not only cause one to overlook these omissions but even forget the initial objectives and become engrossed with the lucid coverage of the blue-collar workers’ life.

Shostak has opted to cover a broad range of topics at the expense of depth of coverage in any one of those topics. The result is an extensive and fast-moving review. A literature review in such an area is a valuable contribution: it is a handy reference book that also could be used as a text for a substantive course on blue-collar occupations.

Because the book discusses so thoroughly blue-collar life, it contains something of interest for almost everyone. As it reviews what has been done and points to research that needs doing, Shostak has helped direct attention to an area which can have both theoretical and applied importance.


Reviewed by DUNCAN MAC RAE, JR., University of Chicago

This collection of papers published by Rokkan over the past fifteen years demonstrates the breadth of his contribution to political sociology as well as the development of the subject. In this development there has been a continual interplay between new developments in theory and in data sources. We can trace changes in the field by considering Rokkan’s essays in chronological order.

The two earliest essays in the volume (1955, 1956) make use of a 1953 survey of teachers’ attitudes in seven countries of Western Europe. They examine the structuring of attitudes in relation to party and to social and economic variables. The initial advance made by these studies is chiefly in the organization of comparative international surveys. A later essay (1969) deals with subsequent developments in cross-national survey analysis.

There follows a series of studies of participation: a synthesis of the literature in terms of sociological hypotheses, a comparison of survey data for Norway and the U.S.A., and a study of the Norwegian party press (1960). The latter two make use of one of the earliest European surveys designed for comparison with the Michigan SRC researches.

In a 1962 article, Rokkan then turns to the analysis of historical archives of aggregate voting statistics for Norway, dating from 1897. He combines them with data on the electorate to measure turnout; and on partisanship of elections and party membership, to examine the evolution of parties. The distinction between center and periphery is introduced here, and the analysis presages the historical perspective and conceptual armory later to be presented (with Lipset) in Party Systems and Voter Alignments.

The elaborate developmental scheme that was then evolved to treat the party systems of Western Europe is presented in two articles from 1967–68. A series of cleavages—political, religious, and social—confront the various political systems throughout the centuries leading up to the development of mass democracy. Their different sequence and severity in different countries leave behind particular party systems and precipitates of cleavages that have shaped the politics of recent decades. A Parsonsian A-G-I-L categorization is also superimposed on the typology of political divisions. The resulting synthesis is a tour de force that requires considerable erudition for its mastery, but which raises comparative political sociology to a new level.

The next steps will perhaps be to extend this analysis to other continents; to incorporate an analysis of elites and governmental decision centers; to interpret the new politics of today; and to seek to incorporate this approach—for teachers and students alike—into our general fund of knowledge.


Reviewed by ROLF P. LYNTON, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Oh, if only the world were rational, the authors seem to be saying. But what the rationality could and needs to encompass, on this they and I probably differ.

The particular piece of the world to which this study addresses itself consists of the 19 municipal hospitals of the Big City, with their 36,000 employees carrying 232 Civil Service job titles. The maze of legal rules and professional standards and accreditations which govern manpower issues there differ little if at all for other hospitals in New York and only marginally so for health services institutions anywhere in the country, so the findings and recommendations apply broadly.