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Summaries

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Summaries

Class Struggle and the International System

by Ekkehart Krippendorff

It is argued that the concept of class is central to the understanding of modern society, the outgrowth of the capitalist-industrial revolution, and that it falls upon social scientists to restore the concept of 'class struggle' to its historical dignity. In particular, international society — the object of International Relations discipline — can and must be understood as a class society in content and as a society composed of sovereign states only in form. Corporate managers, diplomats, the military and certain segments of the labour force are identified as some of the agents of international class formation. It is suggested to view ethnic conflicts as peculiar forms of class conflicts as well.

Ekkehart Krippendorff and the international system

by L. W. van der Mey

This article deals with Ekkehart Krippendorff's analysis of the international system and world politics. The author examines Krippendorff's opinion on the structure of the international system and the explanatory power of the class concept. Krippendorff's approach of class as the independent variable of the international system is characterized as inadequate.

A note on internationalization of capital as an independent variable in the analysis of the international system

by K. van der Pijl

In the first section of this paper, capital is defined as 'value in process' and the social relations enveloping this process; production and circulation of capital and the corresponding class relations are mentioned. Internationalization of capital is then defined in terms of the above two-fold definition of capital.

In section 2, the origin of the market on the outside of primitive communities is related to the use value/exchange value dichotomy. The process of nation-building is seen as the creation of new political units centered round such a market and based on a division of labour cutting through pre-capitalist social formations. Internationalization of circulation and eventually of production and circulation result from the contradictions of the capitalist mode of production and develop along the lines of pre-national trade networks. The author denies the validity of constructing a specific 'neo'-imperialism on the basis of the internationalization process like Palloix and Krippendorff do, but rather interprets 1870-1914 imperialism as the fusion of internationalization of circulation and of production and today's as internationalization of production in full swing.

In the third section the notion of capital as a social relation is explicitly attached to the description of the internationalization process. Combining two conflict dimensions (capitalist/labour and inter-capitalist), capital requires systematic enforcement of existing class relations, which is provided by the state. The state performs two groups of functions, each displaying different characteristics in the course of the internationalization process. It is the mutual determination of the two conflict dimensions that accounts for the systemic nature of international relations under the conditions of internationalized production and circulation; because of state functions internationalizing along with capital, an institutional superstructure of this system is visible.

Party Identification as a cross-cultural concept; its meaning in the Netherlands

by Jacques Thomassen

In the United States party identification has proven to be one of the most invaluable concepts in political research. Therefore it is used more and more as an instrument in comparative political research. However, there are strong indications that party identification does not mean the same thing in different countries. In this article the author presents evidence that it is very doubtful that party identification is a useful concept in the Netherlands. Party identification as measured in the Netherlands does not have some of the essential properties that made it highly useful in the United States:

- 1 — party identification is less stable than vote preference;
- 2 — the little evidence there is, that party identification and vote preference can be distinguished, can also be explained as unreliability of measurement;
- 3 — there is strong evidence that party identification is not causally prior to vote preference.

The reason that party identification has developed in the United States and much less in the Netherlands has to be found in the differences between the linkages of the political parties and the social structure in the two countries. In the Netherlands this linkage has traditionally been very strong. Therefore it is very likely that people did develop strong attachments with a certain subculture rather than with the political party associated with it.

Training and employment of political scientists

by Fred van Delft

Information about job-hunting-experiences of political scientists shows that 31,5 % experienced difficulties in finding a job, that most of the employed think their job could be done by other professionals as well. The study was based on political scientists graduated between January 1st, 1972 and October 1st, 1973. Previously collected data on the type of employment, the appreciation of the training and the emphasis on facets within the training have been supplemented in this study.

Discussion — and discussion techniques, compositional and editorial skills figure as the most frequently mentioned facets to be emphasized. In the last chapter attention is paid to the political preference of political scientists so that the guesses that are always made in this respect can be made on more solid grounds from now on.