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Review of Social Corporatism: A Superior Economic System.

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did not sufficiently understand that his economic arguments led to the conclusion that "the only workable complex classless economies are socialist economies with competitive markets."

The idea that scientific socialism was often at odds with the moral and philosophical presuppositions of Marx is hardly new. Scholars are disparate as Mircea Eliade and Robert Tucker have long argued that Marx was essentially a mythopoeic thinker, a moral philosopher, and not an economist or a sociologist. Moore adds a clever twist to this perspective, however, by focussing on the issue of commodity exchange, or markets, and provocatively demonstrating that Marx's theory of communism without markets is a moral goal without substance and an empirical theory without sufficient foundation. Implicit in Moore's analysis is the notion that communist regimes since Lenin have all too willingly accepted Marx's dismissal of the socialism of his major French rivals, a socialism that sought to create a classless economy that was both planned and driven by market concerns and to construct a political regime that recognized both the rule of law and individual rights.

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Jukka Pekkarinen, Matti Pohjola and Bob Rowthorn (Eds.).
Social Corporatism: A Superior Economic System. New York:
Oxford University Press, 1992. \$95.00 hardcover.

Social scientists working within the traditions of political economy have over the years created diverse conceptual models of Western societies which project images not only of their structural organization but of the way their political and economic systems operate. Pluralism, capitalism, liberal democracy, social democracy and similar terms are now widely used in everyday language to connote different social, economic and political arrangements in different nations and regions of the world and to explicate their dynamics. The identification of corporatism as yet another category suggests that the creative process in social science thinking on issues of political economy continues to be vibrant. It also suggests that the process of change which

promotes divergent social, economic and political systems continues apace.

Research on corporatism as a unique political economy is developing very rapidly. The attention which is now being given to the theory of corporatism is compatible with the view that conventional Anglo-American models which previously dominated social science thinking, not only fail to describe events within the English speaking world, but fail to account for the divergent social, economic and political arrangements which exist in other countries. The discovery of corporatism has also facilitated new normative thinking. Just as social scientists previously hailed Post-War pluralist liberal democracy as a superior system, so scholars of corporatism have claimed that it too represents a higher form of social organization.

Pekkarinen and Pohjola are two Finnish social scientists who have teamed up with Rowthorn at Cambridge University in England to answer the question of whether corporatism is indeed a superior system. While they recognize that the concept of corporatism is elusive, they define its essential characteristics by emphasizing the role of the state as a arbiter between capital and labor and as an active promoter of development. Defined in this way, the editors make a cautious argument for the adoption of corporatist forms of statism particularly in developing countries where there is a need to build institutions conducive to economic and social change. Corporatism, they suggest, offers a compromise between oppressive socialism and unfettered capitalism and fosters economic as well as social progress.

This is a useful book which attempts to come to grips with the difficult concept of corporatism and seeks to explore its various aspects, particularly with references to labor issues. It contains interesting chapters on Sweden, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Australia and Norway which have, to varying degrees, adopted the corporatist approach. Although the price of this book is prohibitive, it should be acquired by libraries to provide a useful reference source for social scientists interested in learning more about the corporatist model, and its growing relevance to the solution of contemporary social and economic problems.

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