destruction of his health, which began to fail late in 1953, although he lived on for another twenty-two years.

The story receives a telling as thorough and conscientious as anyone could hope for; a person of my generation, experience, and views must rejoice in it, even though he doubts that human beings can learn anything usable from history and that American society can be redeemed. People in their 60s and 70s will be moved to think, “Whose life is recounted here? Mine!” For all its size, one finds the book a compact collection of data on some of the most significant political and social phenomena of a half-century, and simultaneously an emotional mine-field that will cause outrage among true-believers, even though few witnesses survive. Duberman set to work not a day too soon, interviewing Eubie Blake when the latter was ninety-three.

An affectionate, as well as an admiring, tone pervades the book. One’s confidence in the author’s candor and zeal to present a rounded account finds support in his coverage of Robeson’s love-life and of his attitude as a parent, something about which he himself spoke candidly. Duberman’s interest in sidelights like Jawaharlal Nehru’s infatuation with Robeson’s somewhat shrewish wife Eslanda both enlivens and deepens the narrative. The dynamic Eslanda, in fact, rather dominates, and not only because of the indispensable contents of her diaries and letters.

Despite his scholarly assiduousness Duberman writes in a casual, popular, readable style, allowing himself such locutions as “latch on to,” “by a hair,” and even “Reverend” before the surname of a clergyman, as “Reverend Robeson” for Paul’s father, but he writes efficiently and felicitously, for the most part, in masterly control of material: rags-to-riches, global travel and residence, intimacy with the famous and powerful, show business, success and ruin, sex and violence—more than suitable for a blockbuster commercial novel. Such a novel, however, would never imply the wretchedness of our incorrigible species as Paul Robeson does, as epitomized in Chapter 18, “Peekskill.”

This monument must have demanded at least ten years of hard work: the last previous of Duberman’s nine books came out in 1977, and the earliest interview I have noted bears the date 1976. How could ten years of a professorial life have sufficed? Quite apart from the figures listed near the beginning of this review, the magnitude of the requisite ancillary reading might almost have daunted a Voltaire. Let us acclaim the author and proclaim his book.

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Kevin Featherstone, Socialist Parties and European Integration. Manchester University Press, 1988, 366 pp., $55.00 (cloth), $19.95 (paper).

Kevin Featherstone provides intriguing accounts of how socialist parties have reacted to and evaluated the development of the European Community. His comprehensive and richly detailed study describes the socialists’ actions and ideological views concerning the complex and protracted undertakings leading to enhanced multinational integration.

International Journal of Comparative Sociology XXXII, 3-4 (1991)
Each of the Community’s 12 member nations is treated in a separate chapter except for combination of Spain and Portugal in one. Featherstone traveled to 10 countries, turning during this far flung field work to scholarly observers for linguistic an research assistance, to resources of libraries for bibliographic materials, and to discussions with party representatives and observers. Individual chapters were later read in draft by specialists.

Featherstone states (p. 324) that “European integration became an issue for socialists at different stages and on the basis of varying opinions.” Despite frequent proclamations of concern for internationalism and with the outstanding exceptions of Paul-Henri Spaak of Belgium and Sicco Mansholt of the Netherlands, neither individual socialists nor socialist parties were at the forefront of the development and growth of the Community.

During national resolutions of the many specific domestic issues brought forth by the Community’s integration process, socialist groups essentially responded to initiatives by other blocs and sectors of society and to the broad currents of public opinion. Noting the existence of exceptions, Featherstone observes that when in power, socialists generally approved European integration; out of it, they often took either opposing or non-committal views.

He indicates that perspectives about integration shifted in response to such factors as fear of control by non-socialist power blocs such as multi-national industry, awareness of shifting and diverse public opinion about integration, decisional strategies during election campaigns, divisions among party blocs, and differentials between elites and grass roots party supporters. Socialist parties and individual socialist leaders in the 12 nations differed widely in their views of integration. Radical shifts in acceptance or rejection of the Community often occurred.

Featherstone seeks general explanations of such diversity by turning to domestic political circumstances in each country as starting point. Covering the span from the inter-war period through the mid-1980’s, he concludes that individual national context have paramount importance in shaping policies of West European socialist parties toward supranational integration.

Despite various efforts to forge mechanisms for cooperation in policy expression and in actions regarding the Community, Featherstone concludes that establishment of policies common to the parties has proved difficult. Consensus has been rare and unsustained in the European Parliament despite growth in representation; the Socialist Group comprised one-third of the total membership in the late 1980’s.

Featherstone’s impressive work should be complemented by other studies. Campaigns for election to the European Parliament and then the course of events in the Parliament itself should be exploited further. The formation of disparate voting blocs, their cohesiveness, and the great variety of issue-focused debates in the Parliament entail settings where political behavior comes to center stage. Similar analyses of the efforts of Community’s Economic and Social Committee where interest groups are represented should be undertaken.

Aside from the founding Six, the further Six subsequently joining the Community experienced much prior political debate because of diverse perceptions of gains from integration and losses of autonomy. The experience of Norway whose government approved joining the Community but then confronted over-riding opposition in its national legislature, leading to a general public referendum that turned membership down, is well worth study. So are the politics of nations currently outside the Community who wish to join, including Norway again as well as Turkey, Austria, and various Central and East European countries.