vides a good discussion of Weber's approach to bureaucratic domination. This material is quite helpful, though not eyeopening, and will be useful for more sophisticated readers as well as for students. It also contains a very good critique of Weber on the relation of bureaucracy and politics, though Schluchter lacks a political vision of his own to place against it. The most insightful and valuable chapter in the book is the one on charisma, where Schluchter's efforts at systematization make a real contribution to understanding the relation between charisma, routinization, and legal domination. He argues convincingly that it is "not sensible to reduce the legal type of domination to its instrumental variant, let alone reduce the process of history to a dialectic of rationalization and charisma." The final section on the development of Weber's work, which connects the sociology of religion and Economy and Society and also shows the serious flaws of the present edition of that work, are good correctives to mistaken views, but are ponderous, confusing, hard to follow, and highly technical. They belong in very specialized journals, rather than in a book of this kind.

This book is not easy reading. It is strongest on the sociology of domination, weakest in attempts to be speculative and original, most useful for its efforts at systematization of concepts, yet finally hard to place. Some of its chapters are appropriate primarily for students, others can only be followed by the most sophisticated specialist. The book also lacks a bibliography, which is annoying, and it translates all German titles of references into English, as if that would help anyone who could not refer to or read the German originals themselves.

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The book analyses and compares the role of trade unions as political actors in some liberal-democratic industrial states: United States, Britain, West Germany, Sweden and Japan. It is organized into 7 Chapters which review the main dimensions of trade union-political links according to the characteristic features of trade unions in the considered societies and their controversial position in both politically liberal-democratic and economically capitalist societies.

The author expresses his own orientations and main dimensions of analysis through several angles he examines successively.

First, (Ch. 1) A. J. Taylor presents the historical background from where the trade unions sprang and their initial and further relations towards politics. The emerging point is the prominence of trade unions in liberal-democratic politics, which does not mean powerlessness. During the course of the century, the political strategies originally intended to expand union influence became mechanisms for circumscribing influence and participation in electoral politics. In fact, due to the economic (capitalist) organisation of these societies, the participation of trade unions in electoral politics and the policy process is for limited purposes and is defensive.

Secondly, the author describes the organisation and structure of the trade unions in the five countries considered and explores the relationship between structure and political influence as well as the nature of union government and especially the extent of oligarchy (Ch. 2). The main structural partition has to be seen in centralized (West
Germany and Sweden) and decentralized (U.K., USA, Japan) union movements. Centralization, fragmentation and political influences are examined from the points of view of structures and political influence, Union government and behaviour, political representation, union ideology and political behaviour.

Then, the author analyses the party-union relationship (Ch. 3): the structural and organizational relationship in general leaves predominance to the party in electoral spheres, whilst the industrial one is the matter of unions; the interrelations in each country take into account the original history of their unions and political leadership, the conditions of financial and other kinds of support to the candidates, and the capacity of trade unions to influence their members' votes. Another dimension is the role of trade unions in party policy-making, whose analysis leads the author to consider parties and unions relationship as procustean.

Chapter 4 interrogates the hypothesis of a decline of working class politics. Through examination of tables and detailed analysis in the different countries, he shows that the citizen's behaviour is also dependent on their country's political structure and forms of government and on the influence of their trade unions relatively to political parties. Party politics, the author asserts, looks like a poisoned chalice: in their early years, parties having links to trade unions and receiving from them electoral organization, finance and manpower in addition to direct access to a large number of potential voters saw the organized working class and union support as a major precondition for electoral take-off. Later, partisan dealignment, social change and internal party conflict have combined to undermine the electability of union supporting parties who suffered from the growing unpopularity of trade unions as the economies of industrial states worsened. Moreover, one cannot forget that not all workers are affiliated to trade unions but all workers can be voters.

The most important chapter of the book is devoted to the problem of the rise and fall of corporatism. As a matter of fact, corporatism, essentially a variant of pluralism, as the author says, "applies specifically to unions (and employers) as it envisages the integration of capital and labour into the policy process to create a political exchange between groups and government to preserve economy and political stability". So, arrangements are made to promote the governability of the industrial policy by depolitising sensitive issues. As trade unions decline in influence their relations with politics, political parties and governments are affected and their support is more or less expected and viewed as efficient. But, when trade unions gain numerous members, they also have to take into account the diversity of their affiliation and their relative depolitisation. The problem is mainly influenced by whether political perception is seen with reference to political stability or to economic vulnerability.

A new problem is linked with the emergence of a new working class including more white-collar workers and, among them, numerous employees of the public sector. The differences between countries are at this level particularly significant, due to their different structures of private/public economic organisation.

In the last chapter (7) the author examines a series of concepts dealing with analytical perspective, definitions, and strategies and methods of trade union political action. He concludes on unions and the problem of power and on "unions, politics and the future," and that "evidence from our five states show considerable animus against the defects of the unions' democratic processes and their political pretensions, but there remains general support for the protective role of unions" and some confidence in their ability to manage collective bargaining and defend the working class as a whole (those affiliated as well as those non-affiliated).

This book will be especially useful for political scientists and sociologists as well as for students, trade unionists, members of political and administrative bodies and