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UCLA Historical Journal

Title

Minding America's Business: The Decline and Rise of the American Economy. By Ira C. Magaziner and Robert B. Reich. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1982. Pp. xii + 387. Tables, exhibits, index. \$25.00

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Journal

UCLA Historical Journal, 5(0)

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Publication Date

1984

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Minding America's Business is both an indictment of America's current economic problems and policies and a panacea for United States' recovery of its position in domestic and world markets. The aspects of American business failures which led to the United States' lack of competitiveness on the international scene are focused on in this book. At one time America dominated industries such as steel and color televisions, but now Europe and Japan are equal or superior to the United States in these areas. Magaziner, a former member of the Boston Consulting Group, and Reich, the director of policy planning in the Federal Trade Commission during the Carter Administration, see the remedy to America's decline in productive capacity over the past fifteen years in the adoption of a coherent and coordinated industrial policy in which the government will take an active role in promoting and supporting business.

In the past the U.S. Government subsidized and directed selected industries' especially during both world wars. At the conclusion of these crises, however, the private sector regained dominance over many of the industries and as a result, the government decreased its support. It is clear to Magaziner and Reich that this "laissez-faire" approach, which has continued into the present, has hampered America from competing effectively with other nations.

A move away from Reagan's supply-side economics, which virtually excludes government, toward a policy embraced by most other industrialized nations is advocated by the authors. Japanese and European business policies are contrasted to America's unsophisticated industrial program, which relies on a decentralized system and divides policy-making among the various state and national government bureaus and business organizations. Other nations possess central agencies which provide strategies and promote economic programs and have a highly trained civil service, while America depends on a bureaucracy with little business expertise or experience. Japan and many European countries phase out declining industries and replace them with new businesses; the U.S., in many instances, supports failing businesses such as Chrysler. Foreign industrial policy seeks to promote exports; instead, the U.S. seeks to protect its industries from imports. Finally, other countries provide some means for the different segments of industry (labor, business, and government) to meet and develop a consensual industrial policy, while the U.S. has no such coordinating mechanism.

In order to make American competitiveness and production capacity

equal to that of other industrial powers the authors recommend more government intervention in the economy through a corporatist arrangement in which government and business work in tandem to coordinate production, introduce and promote new products, ease out declining businesses and support growing ones, while providing solutions to socially destructive labor problems. With business and government operating hand in hand, different strategies which would anticipate problems or upswings in the economy and adjust measures accordingly are possible. Corporatism provides for a structured economic organization in which the private and public sectors strive for a common goal and as a consequence, both parties equally benefit.

Minding America's Business is another in a long line of recent prescriptive books which attempt to find a solution to the United States' declining economic power. The authors' opinions are helpful and valid, but Magaziner and Reich conclude their book long before offering any concrete answers to the problems. Instead of suggesting institutional arrangements, the authors fall back on "the U.S. is not a nation of planners" (p.378), and criticize the present structure. Thus, the reader is left hanging as to constructive measures to help America's economy.

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A Better World: The Great Schism: Stalinism and the American Intellectuals. By WILLIAM L. O'NEILL. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982. Pp. 447. Photos, index. \$17.95

William O'Neill's book is a richly-detailed and thoroughly-researched account of the intellectual left in America between the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939 and the end of the Cold War. O'Neill has taken great pains to draw three dimensional characters, capturing the complicated political, ideological and personal debates which separated those he calls "fellow-travelers," "progressives" and "anti-Stalinists." He demonstrates that Stalin's Russia was the issue which divided these three groups, tracing the subtle shifts in each's opinions from progressive ascendancy during World War II to anti-Stalinism in the post-war years. In doing so, he raises some interesting questions about the impact of Stalinism on foreign policy as well as intellectual integrity. Yet this is only half of his story. He also tries to step beyond the moral framework he feels glorifies the progressives and villifies the anti-Stalinists, and winds up moralizing from the opposite point of view.