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Trade Union Foreign Policy (Book Review).

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Peer reviewed

this reviewer the dominant motivation behind ORIT appears to be based more on ideological concerns with "free trade unionism" than with practical benefits to be gained at least by the U.S. trade unions.

Although the theme becomes somewhat weaker in the postwar period, the value of the book lies in its general description of Mexican-American labor relations and on that basis should be useful to students of Mexican-American and Latin American affairs.

—MIKE EVERETT
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International activities of trade unions

Trade Union Foreign Policy: A Study of British and American Trade Union Activities in Jamaica.
By Jeffrey Harrod. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1972. 485 pp. \$10.

As the world's economy becomes increasingly interdependent and therefore internationalized, it is encouraging to note that social scientists are beginning to conduct research on the nongovernmental linkages among States. Over the past 5 years much has been written about the multinational corporation as an important international actor, but comparatively little has been published on the more recent international activities of trade unions. Jeffrey Harrod's book ostensibly undertakes this task, but unfortunately it seems to lose sight of its subject matter in a welter of introduction, rather specific events, and largely unintegrated material.

Essentially, this book attempts to examine the international interactions between trade unions in industrial countries and the society, politics, and economy of less developed countries. The particular case of British and American trade union activity in Jamaica (specifically the Trades Union Congress and the United Steelworkers of America) serves as the basis for the book. However, it is apparent that in spite of meticulous research by the author the case itself is just not rich enough to warrant such exhaustive treatment. Furthermore, the author has not developed a more general model of the relationship between unions in industrialized states and developing countries such that the particular case of Jamaica can be used to illustrate various aspects of the model.

As a result of the shallowness of the case and the

lack of a conceptual model, this long book seems to be composed of a number of rather distinct parts, which are often examined in detail but frequently with such little regard for the overall objective of the book that the important relationships or linkages remain unexplored. For instance, the Introduction, which offers some tantalizing thoughts about nongovernmental actors in international relations, has a long discussion of the problems of cross-cultural research without ever specifying how the author was able to overcome these problems or the nature of his research methodology. Further "introductory" chapters follow which examine the general reasons for trade union activity in the international arena, the nature of British and American trade unions, their policies towards less developed countries in general, and the particular characteristics of Jamaica and Jamaican trade unions. Even here, at the midpoint of the book, the author seems somewhat reluctant to get on with the task of examining the foreign policies of the British and American unions, perhaps because of what seems to be a scarcity of trade union foreign policy interactions.

This lack of material, as manifested by an excessive reliance on relating the occurrence of visits by foreign unionists and on reporting fragments of the statements of union officials, causes the author problems when he attempts to offer an assessment of the activity of foreign unions and draw conclusions therefrom. There just is not enough evidence, for example, to claim that the British and American "unions became an important factor in determining the political environment in which state diplomacy takes place" (p. 403). The linkage between foreign unions, political environment, and state diplomacy is not developed, either empirically or conceptually.

In conclusion, this book may be useful for the specialist interested in the Jamaican trade union movement because of the author's exhaustive research, but it will disappoint both the specialist and the generalist seeking insights into the foreign policy activities of trade unions and their impact on developing states.

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