

I find it difficult to deliver a simple judgement on the book. It contains quite a lot of useful empirical work, and gives helpful summaries of the technology and growth of the CNC lathe industry, and the author has collected evidence from a wide range of sources. Yet as an economic analysis, it leaves a number of questions unanswered. How far did Taiwanese and South Korean exports compete, on characteristics and adjusted price? How did CNC lathe manufacture in each of those countries measure up to general economic performance indicators? How did different industries in those countries fare in respect of government support? In the transition from thesis to book, I think some of these questions should have been addressed; and some of the repetitious summaries could have been excised, to avoid the old armed services practice of 'tell 'em what you're going to tell 'em: tell 'em: and tell 'em you've told 'em'. Perhaps a broader question can be asked of Ingo Walter, the editor of the World Industry Studies series, of which this is a fifth volume. Does the series have a cogent framework, or is it just a vehicle for manuscripts that pop up? If, as I judge, it is the latter, then a useful opportunity is being missed.

REFERENCES

1. R. Jenkins, 'The Rise and Fall of the Argentine Motor Vehicle Industry' in R. Kronish and K.S. Mericle (eds), *The Political Economy of the Latin American Motor Vehicle Industry*, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1984, pp. 41-74.

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International Industry and Business: Structured Change, Industrial Policy and Industry Strategies by R.H. Ballance

(Allen & Unwin, London, 1987) pp. xxi + 357, Paper \$45, ISBN 0-04-339038-2.

Ballance has written a book which claims to explain how international, domestic, economic and political factors have moulded the modern manufacturing sectors of the world's nations in the post-World War II era. Paraphrasing the book itself, two themes are stressed throughout: first, industrial developments, in the broadest sense, have become truly international, if not global; and second, most manufacturing occurs under oligopolistic conditions. In fact there is really a third theme that is stressed, and that is the role of the nation state, operating in an international arena to set up dynamic industrial bases and, as a concomitant of this, to attract capital.

In this context it is difficult to understand why the terms 'multinational' and 'transnational' never appear in the text. Apart from the perjorative manner in which these terms are sometimes used, and the possible sensitivity of Ballance's position as an officer of UNIDO, particularly with respect to the Third World, it is difficult to find any reason for this strange omission. There are important repercussions flowing from the omission. First, it denies Ballance the use of a large body of literature concerned with multinationals and transnationals. Second, and more importantly, it leaves Ballance without a platform for the discussion of a wide variety of relevant topics related to the role of such corporations in determining global manufacturing patterns. This is significant

not only in the general analysis of the book but also because Ballance's example industries (computers, semiconductors, consumer electronics, automatic capital machinery, automobiles, steel and textiles) are 'dominated' by such corporations. One might argue that the term 'dominated', much used by Ballance, is better or more accurately replaced by the term 'controlled' in referring to global manufacturing patterns. Some types of relevant topics that do not appear in any detail, because of this omission, include the internationalisation of capital, transfer pricing and the use of international headquarters and tax havens.

Another nomenclature problem in this text is that the terms 'business', 'manufacturing', and 'industry' all appear to be used in virtually synonymous ways, particularly if prefaced by the word 'international'. Consequently it is not clear what the concern of the book is except in the most general terms. It would appear to be the global patterning of manufacturing, judging from his example industries. However, these example manufacturing industries are dealt with in a perfunctory manner, and it could be concluded that non-manufacturing industries such as international banking or software production might have served just as well.

The audience claimed is that of students who have a first year of economics and are studying industrial economics, international business or economic development. It is also argued that the text is intended as complementary to core texts rather than being a substitute for them. The attempt is for broad appeal and, consequently, the book seems to serve no intended segment of its audience either well or in any depth.

Most appropriately the book might be described as an introductory international economic history of the post-war manufacturing sector with a strong empirical bias. At \$45 it does not appear to be particularly expensive but it most certainly does not appear value for that price.

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Democracy in Australian Unions: A Comparative Study of Six Unions by
E.M. Davis
(Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1987) pp. xvi + 243. ISBN 00-4-320205-5. \$19.95.

The popular Australian mythology concerning trade unions is epitomised in the proposition that they are oligarchic organisations designed and operated by secretive elite cliques offering little or no opportunity for democratic involvement or decision-making for the membership. Academic models of trade unions, e.g. Ashenfelter, often follow suit.

Davis adduces considerable evidence to refute the shallow conventional wisdom with its hidden agenda of antagonism. The study of six unions of considerably different social and economic background and function amply demonstrates the avenues for, and wide utilisation of, the membership participation in a variety of basic decision-making. Avenues for consultation, information and referenda are highlighted and the evidence points convincingly in the direction of a great rebuttal of the conventional wisdom of suspicion and elite manipulation.