

Summaries

Left-wing radicalism and the mass army: the USA and the Netherlands in comparative perspective

by R. Kroes

The paper focuses on the interrelationship between radicalism and the military establishment. The relationship between the military outlook and left-wing radicalism may display various configurations. These can be ordered by means of such variables as: political environment, structural isolation, and sense of alienation of the radical left. The approach is that of a study in 'situated options'. A central assumption of the paper is that variations in the degree of isolation and alienation of the left tend to allow of different strategies for the Left to follow; in addition, these variations tend to go along with variations in the image of society the Left comes forth with. Thus, the adversary, as perceived by the Left, can range from highly specific institutions or segments of society, to an opponent such as 'the system' or 'society'. Historical contexts, such as the Netherlands and the US, different on account of what access the Left is offered or what isolation it is forced into, can be seen to display two divergent configurations of type of left-wing critique of society and type of strategy the Left has chosen for confronting society and its military establishment.

Conscript Unionism in the Dutch Army

by G. Teitler

Conscript dissatisfaction is a rather wide-spread phenomenon in Western mass armies. During the second part of the 1960's a Dutch conscript union was founded that started a series of most interesting campaigns. At first it kept to a non-political role and directed its actions entirely at the attaining of material gains, but gradually the whole military way of life in the barracks and the position of the military in society became the butt of its actions. The paper discusses the sources, patterns and consequences of this intra-organizational conflict, and of the changes within the union.

The completeness of information on facts in the past as given by interviewees

by J. J. M. van Tulder

Two research projects are discussed. In these projects it was possible to analyse the influence of the time interval between fact and registration on the reliability of the obtained data. One project asked which spots in a town people had passed, the other which pages in a magazine were noticed.

Conclusions:

– within a limited time interval it is possible to obtain sufficiently precise and

reliable information;

- the more the original situation can be reconstructed the more reliable will be the information (i.c. handing a map of the town, handing the magazine);
- when any suggestion of completeness is at stake (i.c. having read all the pages) interviewees tend to exaggerate the facts – this tendency can be neutralized by fake questions.

Nieuw bij Samsom Uitgeverij: ORGANISATIES IN KRITISCH PERSPECTIEF door Charles Perrow

In deze inleiding tot de studie van grote, complexe organisaties geen gebruikelijk overzicht van elementen van organisaties, processen en aanverwante onderwerpen op dit terrein. De auteur verwerpt de benadering van organisaties als coöperatieve systemen en hij betwijfelt het nut van de "human relations" benadering voor het doorgronden van de aard van organisaties, hoezeer deze ook van waarde is voor het inzicht in de betrekkingen tussen de ene mens en de andere. In plaats van deze theorieën werkt hij het wat schematisch Weberiaanse beeld der bureaucratie nader uit door uitvoerig in te gaan op de rol die de hiërarchie, onpersoonlijkheid, deskundigheid, voorschriften en routinematige werkwijzen hier spelen. Ook besluitvorming, groepsconflict en technologische benaderingen komen in zijn beschouwingen aan de orde. Het boek verscheen in de serie 'Maatschappijbeelden', het telt 236 pagina's en kost f 27,50.

Ook verkrijgbaar via de boekhandel

samsom

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