

I recognize that phasing out any spousal benefits—even when 70% of women 20 through 60 years are working, and 90% of women have worked the required 10 years—is not politically feasible.

I do not support earnings sharing because of the difficulties in the transitional phase and the opposition not only by older widows but by high-earning men. For example Wolff notes, on the last page of her text, that: "The transition from the current system to the new system . . . will, most likely, erode the financial status of some groups of beneficiaries" [p. 143].

With greater political wisdom I now support a simple tinkering proposal—to allow the lower earning spouse to add, upon retirement, part of his or her earned benefits to the derivative spousal benefit "the total being capped by 125 percent of the earned benefit, or three-fourths rather than one-half of the spousal benefit, whichever is higher" [3, 115]. Under this proposal all are gainers. Similarly, a surviving spouse and a divorced spouse would have a prorated spousal benefit based on the number of years of the marriage. But here there are losers and thus a long phase-in period is needed.

Wolff's book also discusses other "inequities" such as no benefit being awarded to older working persons who are under 70 years of age but who earn more than SSA's annual cut off amounts. Wolff makes no policy recommendation to change this and does not discuss the effect of the 1983 legislation that mandates a gradual change in the percentage annual increase in delayed benefits, from the current 3% to 8%, beginning in 1990 through 2005. By 2025 one has to be 67 years to receive the full benefit, rather than the current 65 years. It seems feasible to phase out entirely the 70 years demarcation to coincide with the then full 8 percent annual increase for delayed benefits and/or with the age 67 requirement.

A great deal of work has gone into this book and it may be that a policy-oriented person does not appreciate the multiple tables and regression models. If the aim of the book is to throw light on policy, it has not succeeded. If the aim of the book is to provide statistical and actuarial information, otherwise difficult to obtain, the book succeeds.

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References

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Economic Development: The History of an Idea.

By H. W. Arndt. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1987. Pp. viii, 217. \$20.95.

In this book, H. W. Arndt, who is now professor emeritus at the Australian National University, surveys the changing meaning and objectives of development economics from the point of view of political and economic theorists, policy-makers, and politicians from the time of Adam Smith to Ayatollah Khomeini. He outlines the origins of the idea of material progress in Western thought and examines how this idea contributed to the origin of development economics as a special field of study after World War II. From its original identification with economic growth during the 1950s and 1960s, Arndt shows how the aims of development economics changed to stress employment, equity, the alleviation of poverty and the provision of basic needs in the 1970s. Along the way, he shows how developing nations grew increasingly disenchanted with their inward-looking orientation of the 1950s and 1960s and began moving more and more toward an export-looking orientation in their development and trade policies during the 1970s.

The present book could be regarded as a sequel to the author's *The Rise and Fall of Economic Growth*, originally published in Melbourne in 1978 and reprinted by the University of Chicago Press in 1984, in which he traced the evolution of public attitudes toward economic growth in industrial countries. In the present volume, the author attempts to do the same for economic development as a policy objective of developing countries. What the author does remarkably well in his book is to examine how the idea of development economics is related to and arose from earlier writings on economic progress, from those of Adam Smith to

those of Sun Yat-sen. The subsequent treatment of the evolution of development economics from stressing growth through capital formation and industrialization to emphasizing human capital, technical progress, and basic needs, while expertly done, proceeds along very familiar grounds and adds no new insights.

The author takes a neutral and an almost detached attitude toward the subject matter and throughout most of the book seems content with simply reporting the changes that have taken place in the field of development economics over the past three or four decades. The tension and turmoil of changing assumptions, models, and empirical evidence that we have been witnessing in the field are almost entirely missing from the book. Also missing are the sociological and political aspects of development. In all fairness to the author, he may deliberately have taken a narrow view of the field and may have been content with simply examining and reporting the evolution of the idea of development economics. But this makes the book more descriptive than analytical. Without probing deeply enough to uncover the underlying forces and conflicts that gave rise and shaped new directions in the field, the book is of greater interest to the general educated reader than to the serious student of development economics. The book also omits, for the most part, the more recent important developments in the field of development economics during the 1980s. Since these represent the culmination of many of the developments of the 1970s, even the narrow history of the development of economic ideas in the field seems incomplete.

In summary, I would recommend the book for the chapter tracing the emergence of development economics as a special field of study prior to and immediately following World War II and for expertly examining the relationship of economic development to the ideas of national leaders of the left and right, from Karl Marx to Ayatollah Komeini. The treatment of the history of ideas in development economics, however, is narrow and mostly descriptive in nature, and little is said about the developments of the 1980s and the resurgence of neoclassicism in development economics. The book will make for interesting reading as an introduction to the growth and evolution of development ideas but does not provide the type of in-depth analysis that would make the book of great interest to the expert in the field.

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Unions in Crisis and Beyond.

Edited by Richard Edwards, Paolo Garonna, and Franz Tödtling. Dover, Mass.: Auburn House Publishing Company, 1986. Pp. xii, 340, \$35.00.

A first inclination for the prospective reader may be, "... do I really want to read another litany of explanations for why unions are declining?" But, this book does add substantial value to the literature; primarily because it is thorough in offering an organized look at labor unions in several countries, making for interesting comparisons and important background material. The editors admit to some important exclusions from their presentation of six capitalist, industrialized economies. However, their purpose is to give examples of three different models of union participation in political and economic systems, and this purpose is met. The comparisons show unions at different levels of partnership with the institutions of government and employers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Austria, and Sweden.

The editors integrate work from authors on each of the countries into a solid collection tracing labor organizations from the post-war period of economic growth through the ensuing economic crisis. The focal point is the economic crisis that began in the 1970s and its country-specific impact on industrial relations. Interestingly, the competition among these industrialized countries for markets, profits, energy, and capital had a synergistic impact. Prior to this, the labor-management relations in each country were more-or-less closed arrangements, not strongly affected by other economies; wage setting policies, use of labor, managerial strategies, and union membership building were primarily internal. Organized labor leaped forward in strength, membership, and attainment of a legitimate position; especially in the industrialized sectors, which became the hallmark of unionization. But, the international competition that eventually emerged among these economies forced unions into a defensive position and pushed labor-management relations off balance.

In the United States, the recent history and current picture of industrial relations is explained through the labor accord: the institutional arrangement that emerged after the war and integrated responsible unionism into the legitimate economic system. The stability of the accord contributed to economic success, but when this success started to erode, so did the accord, and so did the partnership position of unions. The willingness of the Reagan administration to allow unions to lose their partnership status (exemplified by the handling of