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Author(s): Kenneth Janda

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These authors are feminist scholars and writers in England and Russia as well as in Scotland, France, and China. Their analyses derive from the diverse western feminist perspectives characterized in the introduction as liberal, radical, and socialist. In spite of reform, it is argued, unless voices are addressed to patriarchy, women's lives will remain stuck under traditional constraints. These chapters drive home that most women will not be drawn to feminist agendas; at the same time, opportunities have expanded for women's "self-expression" (7).

The book ought to attract readers interested in comparative feminist theory; different perspectives within feminism, east and west, might be discussed in the next and larger book. Two observations should be useful. The title is misleading; the core of the book is on the former Soviet Union and China. Second, the breakdown of the former USSR into separate states, in some instances with very tense relations and subsequent civil wars, can only complicate the question of feminist agendas and the much needed dialogue across national boundaries—one of the objectives to which the book seeks to contribute.

Charlotte Grave Patton, *Hunter College, The City University of New York*

Political Parties of the Americas, 1980s to 1990s—Canada, Latin America, and the West Indies. Edited by Charles D. Ameringer. (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1992. Pp. xi, 696. \$99.50.)

Ameringer describes this book as a complement to a two-volume work edited by Robert J. Alexander with a similar title: *Political Parties of the Americas: Canada, Latin America, and the West Indies* (Greenwood Press, 1982). Alexander's volumes were the first in a series of reference books which collectively have been titled the Greenwood Historical Encyclopedia of the World's Political Parties. The *Americas* book was followed by *Political Parties of Europe* (1983), edited by Vincent E. McHale, and then by *Political Parties of Asia and the Pacific* (1985), edited by Haruhiro Fukui. Currently listed as forthcoming is *Political Parties of the Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Frank Tachau, as is *Political Parties of Europe, 1980s to 1990s*, edited again by McHale. So Ameringer's book represents the first updating of these valuable guides to the world's political parties.

Evaluating this book requires understanding the nature of all the volumes in the series. The publisher describes them as "regional guides" to the "significant" parties of the world from the eighteenth century to the present, that summarize party history and "detail the evolution of ideology, changes in organization, membership, leadership, and each party's impact upon society" (ii). The editors of the original volumes have contributed substantial descriptive and analytical introductions to party politics in their regions. (For example, Alexander's introduction to the first *Americas* runs for 40 pages.) The remainder of the text consists of chapters on each country, arranged alphabetically, written by authors (mostly historians or political scientists) who are closely familiar with the countries' politics.

These chapters vary widely in length according to the size of the country and the importance of political parties within the country. Each chapter begins with an introductory essay on party politics in the country and concludes with descriptions of major parties, with minor parties sometimes merely listed with their dates of existence. The original volumes also have useful appendices on party chronology, genealogy, and classification by ideology and interests. All the original books admirably fulfilled their objectives as guides to parties in the region.

Ameringer's update of the *Americas* study needs to be compared with Alexander's original two-volume publication. Interestingly, Ameringer's book on the 1980s and early 1990s is nearly as long as Alexander's century-long survey (696 pages vs. 864). This is despite the fact that Ameringer wrote only a short introduction (6 pages), which directs the reader to Alexander's 40-page discussion of geographical and historical background in the original work. Ameringer aimed at combining "an update with a freestanding volume" that "concentrates on new developments in the political parties of the Americas since 1980, presents fresh background data, and refers to related material in the Alexander work where appropriate, achieving backup without redundancy" (ix). Each chapter was also organized similarly to the original work (general essay, bibliography, list of parties), with the exception that Alexander reported all parties in a single list, while Ameringer listed all parties as "active" and "historical"—those that ceased to exist before 1980. Moreover, 12 of Ameringer's 29 contributors were also in Alexander (including Alexander, who declined to return as editor due to other commitments). Given these facts, one would expect that the two publications would be similar in content—but not necessarily similar in length. The similarity in length is more striking because Ameringer includes only one appendix, that on chronology, saving 40 pages by not offering the two appendices that explain party genealogy and that classify parties by ideology and interests.

One might think that Ameringer's volume was nearly as long simply because he covered more countries. In a trivial sense, this is true. Alexander reported on 48 countries and territories (e.g., two are the British Virgin Islands and the Falkland Islands), while Ameringer covered all those plus Aruba, a tiny island of about 70,000 inhabitants that separated from the Netherlands Antilles in 1986. Thus both publications can be fairly characterized as exhaustive of nations and territories in the Western Hemisphere—with the pointed and understandable exception of the United States. Canada, however, is included and is tied with Mexico at 35 pages for the longest chapter in Ameringer's book. Four entities (British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands [also listed as *Islas Malvinas*], and Montserrat), got only two pages each in Ameringer. As all four countries received virtually the same coverage in Alexander, we begin to see why Ameringer's 1980s–1990s update approaches the length of Alexander's original publication. Given that both works cover virtually the same countries and given some irreducible minimum of coverage for small countries, the length of the update was pushed toward the original.

In addition to these mechanical factors, there is a more interesting substantive reason for the length of Ameringer's coverage of parties in the Western Hemisphere in the 1980s and 1990s. There was simply more competitive party politics to report in most of the countries. Noting that "the actual holding of free elections is vital to political party development," Ameringer characterized the 1980s as "a time unlike any other in Latin America. Democracy has been busting out all over" (4). The lengths of the entries for Mexico in the original work and in the update illustrates the phenomenon. In the original publication, the chapter on Mexico, with extensive treatment of the postrevolutionary history and the role of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), ran 29 pages. Even after curtailing the historical material, the corresponding chapter in Ameringer ran 35 pages, with four pages in the essay alone devoted to electoral developments since 1982. Similar increases in coverage can be seen in the chapters on Nicaragua (increasing from 23 to 33 pages) and the Dominican Republic (from 17 to 25 pages).

In sum, *Political Parties of the Americas, 1980s to 1990s* is really, as Ameringer hoped, not only an update but a "freestanding volume" that does not need to be read in conjunction with the original publication. Although there is historical material in Alexander not available in Ameringer, the update provides enough historical background on the individual countries for the book to stand on its own. Should one need more information about defunct parties in the historical list of parties, then one can consult Alexander's original work—which is also valuable for its two appendices on party genealogy and party ideology. Nevertheless, Ameringer's book represents a valuable contribution to the reference literature on political parties. One hopes for as much from forthcoming updates in the Greenwood Historical Encyclopedia of the World's Political Parties when they appear.

Kenneth Janda, *Northwestern University*

Argentine Workers: Peronism and Contemporary Class Consciousness. By Peter Ranis. (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1992. Pp. 313. \$49.95.)

A good work of social science should address relevant issues, advance important theoretical debates, and convey new information. *Argentine Workers* does each of these things. The book is based on a set of two-hour, open-ended interviews with 110 randomly selected Argentine industrial and service-sector workers. Asked in 1985 and 1986 about key issues of the day, most workers not only supported the newly established democratic regime; they also embraced foreign capital and favored the privatization of state enterprises. Such preferences should be seen, Peter Ranis argues, not as signs of "false consciousness," but rather as the indispensable starting point for any effort to build a more just society. Following Eduard Bernstein, the author contends that workers have diverse interests, need no revolutionary vanguard to tell them what those interests are, and can pursue their goals most effectively within a framework of liberal democracy.