

Abstract

Peter Munk Christiansen

State and Organized Interests: Corporatism as an Institution

Institutionalist theory based on a public choice approach offers a sound alternative to existing theories on the relationship between state and organized interests. Organizations and state actors are intendedly rational actors in pursuit of control, authority, and substantial benefits. They act under complex constraints given by norms and rules concerning the interplay between organizations and bureaucrats and ministers. The rationalist perspective focuses on the distributive gains allocated through corporatist institutions as the drive in establishment, persistence, and change of corporatist institutions.

*Jörgen Hermansson, Torsten Svensson
och PerOla Öberg*

Swedish Corporatism Revisited

The often asserted statement that Swedish corporatism has experienced a dramatic decline during the last decade has suffered from a severe lack of empirical proof. This article presents some facts. Corporatist arrangements have never been as dominant they were claimed to be and the change to a more pluralist system came much earlier than assumed. The most dramatic shift in power has been from civil servants to the political leadership. Yet organized interests do continue to play a significant role in Swedish society by using other means than corporatist arrangements.

Moreover, the change that occurred has led to a weaker labor movement and a more powerful industry. This may have implications for the unique elite structure in Sweden. It will also have serious impact on the conditions of public debate.

Jørgen Grønnegård Christensen

Staff Influence in the Public Sector

Hierarchical management structures predominate in both private sector and public sector organizations. In spite of strong formal hierarchies, managers are severely constrained in their ability to effectively control their staff. Although this is a generic trait for hierarchical organizations, these constraints on managerial authority are particularly strong in public sector organizations.

Niels Christian Sidenius

Corporatism in Our Time?

"Corporatism is dead!" was the claim in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Internal Market Programme and the expanding regional political cooperation in the European Community would weaken national corporatism and substitute pluralism for it internationally. But, corporatism has proved to be hard to kill. In the European Union cases of meso-corporatism develop and the Social Protocol - now integrated into the Amsterdam Treaty - have furthered cooperation of a

corporatist type between the Commission and peak associations, leading to Directives as well as to European Agreements. At the same time, national corporatism has adapted itself to the regional political cooperation and it has been strengthened in the national endeavour to cope with the political and economic challenges of the EU.

Peter Lind

**Freedom as the power to choose
one's life**

Freedom is a central concept of political philosophy. A major contention is that freedom is the legally defined area in which a man can act without restraints from others. It is a contention which especially Friedrich Hayek in the United States and Isaiah Berlin in England put forward in powerful terms in the beginning of the 1960s. This conception of freedom is a retreat from earlier liberal positions and it does not correspond with freedom in the modern welfare state. Freedom is best understood as the array of real possibilities which are open to the individual in a given society. A central aspect of freedom is the range of choices possible with respect to occupation and career.