

Abstracts

Jørgen Goul Andersen

Green Politics

The article discusses various theoretical perspectives on the so-called »new« or »green« politics. Is »green« politics an expression of the political mobilization or even of the class interests of a particular class – »the new middle layers« of the employees within the reproductive apparatuses of the state? Is »green« politics more adequately understood as an expression of post-materialist »value set« conditioned by the unprecedented wealth in the decades since World War II, as most election research would have us believe? Or should »green« politics be interpreted as an expression of problems of crises immanent in capitalism or industrialism? The answer to these questions is important not only in analysing »green« politics but also in judging the future of the labour movement as an agent of social change.

Jørgen Goul Andersen

Social Cleavages in Environmentalism

The article focuses on the relevance of the theory of postmaterialism vis-a-vis a structural theory of capitalism/industrialism in explaining environmental attitudes in Denmark. It contends that the relevant field of testing the theories is not in contrasting ideological factors with social factors. Rather, the theories should be tested on the basis of their implications for the social variations in attitudes.

Here, the theory of postmaterialism faces severe problems. It fits most adequately with participation in the traditional »nature conservation movement« of the 1970's but here there are no generational differences. These generational cleavages are indeed found when it comes to environmental attitudes or participation in the actions of the radical ecological movement; but here the implications concerning class differences are contradicted by empirical evidence. On the whole, »progressive« attitudes towards the environment are as widespread within the working class as within the middle class, and childhood experiences within an unskilled working class family actually produce more »progressive« attitudes than middle class experiences, other things being equal.

This is explained by the Danish labour movement's successful articulation of environmentalism with a socialist discourse and demonstrate that environmentalism (and probably more generally, »new politics«) does not necessarily erode but might rather reinforce traditional political cleavages, depending upon the strategies adopted by the labour movement.

Tor Bjørklund & Ottar Hellevik

The Green Controversial Questions in Norwegian Politics

In the beginning of the 1970s one can detect a breakthrough for the ecological message about the inseparable connection between man and nature in most of the party programmes. There is a parallel development between the parties. But in spite of small differences in platforms and verbal expressions, there are clearcut differences in the support for environmental protection among the voters. The pattern does not fit with the traditional left/right axis. The most negative segment towards the environmentalism is an alliance of two traditional opponents, socialdemocrats and conservatives. The radical middle-class is the most solid base for the environmentalists.

During the last years we have seen an increase in the support for environmentalism. The reasons behind this development are discussed. Three approaches are used: (1) The pollution problems have increased. (2) The younger generations have been socialized in a periode where the seriousness of the ecological problems have been recognized. (3) The younger generations are more post-materialistic in their values than the older ones (Inglehart). They put higher priorities to environment as a result of growing up in a society with material and economical security .

Evert Vedung

Green Light for the Green Party in Sweden

New parties are formed when major established parties fail to provide acceptable forms of linkage between electorate and government. Underlying the formation in 1981 of the Green Party in Sweden are at least two perceived electoral linkage failures, both of them related to nuclear energy.

In earlier elections, the Greens have been trapped in an enigmatic situation. They have obtained high scores in opinion polls before the elections and done quite well in municipal elections but failed in parliamentary elections. The explanation for this is that the party had no »Comrade Four Percent«.

The succes in the 1988 election is due partly to a wave of environmentalism, partly to discontent with traditional politics.

Karsten Ronit

Establishing the Danish Chamber of Commerce – Going the Corporatist Way

In Denmark commerce has traditionally been one of the most associationally fragmented branches of business. This was considered to have a rather negative impact on the political influence of commerce although the state has always acknowledged the associations e.g. by inviting them to take part in negotiations affecting their interests. Establishing a single peak association was nevertheless felt necessary. After intense discussions the Danish Chamber of Commerce was set up in January 1987 by The Chamber of Commerce of Copenhagen and Denmark's Provincial Chamber of Commerce, two old associations with a somewhat conservative image. The new association has given high priorities to distinct political issues, partly by taking up those previously neglected. To keep members and attract prospective newcomers selective incentives are to be developed and thereby the more political sections of the association can rely on stable financial sources. In sum, this new and increased political orientation by a peak association building on multiple and heterogeneous interests is interpreted as a corporatist development trend.

On June 10, 1988, principal in the Ministry of Fisheries Gorm Rye Olsen defended his thesis, *Economy and Politics in the Arab World. A Comparative Analysis of the Development of Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia since the 1950s, 1-2*, (København: Akademisk Forlag, 1988), for which he received the degree dr.scient.pol. An English summary of his thesis is found in the book on pp. 665-745. This issue of *Politica* publishes the contribution of the first official critic, fil.dr. Björn Beckman, lecturer in political science at the University of Stockholm, and that of the second official critic, cand.mag. Nikolaj Petersen, professor in international politics at the University of Aarhus. It also publishes the contributions of the critics *ex auditorio*, dr.scient.pol. John Martinussen, professor in international development studies at the University Center of Roskilde, and cand.mag. Johannes Andersen, associate professor in political science at the University Center of Aalborg.