



The Supranational Organization of Production: An Evolutionary Perspective [and Comments and Reply]

Alvin W. Wolfe, Cyril S. Belshaw, James Dow, Luis María Gatti, Peter Geschiere, Alan M. Klein, Chet S. Lancaster, Bernard Magubane, Joan Miller, June Nash, William H. Newell, Jay O'Brien, David Pitt, Barbara J. Price, T. V. Sathiyamurthy, William W. Stein, Malcolm C. Webb, Jane Alison Weiss, and Howard E. Aldrich

 Abstract More

Abstract

Fresh theoretical perspectives are required for understanding the rapid expansion of international economic activity and especially the organization of production on a world scale through institutions of multinational enterprise. An anthropological evolutionary approach which sees these developments as part of the generation of a new system at a supranational level of sociocultural integration seems appropriate to the task. The creation of such a new system is a matter of complex changes in the forms and relationships of many constituent subsystems, not simply a response to technoenvironmental stimuli. Among the cumulating changes are those relative to factors of production, those relative to transactions, and those relative to corporateness. Understanding of this developing supranational system requires delineation of newly emerging mechanism of control. A network model is suggested as appropriate to identifying the ways in which variation in any one part falls under some degree of control by the system represented by its complementary parts.



[The University of Chicago](#)

[Accessibility](#)

© 2025 The University of Chicago and other publishing partners. All rights reserved, including rights for text and data mining and training of artificial intelligence technologies or similar technologies.

[Open access at Chicago](#)

[Permissions](#)

[Statement of Publication Ethics](#)

[Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Chicago](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Media and advertising requests](#)

