



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

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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.



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