

## Compte rendu

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*Selected Models of Worker Education in Europe*, Research Series III, by Robert E. Beldings, Iowa, City, The University of Iowa, Center for Labor and Management, 1973, 142 pp.

par Gary N. Chaison

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**Selected Models of Worker Education in Europe**, Research Series III, by Robert E. Beldings, Iowa City, The University of Iowa, Center for Labor and Management, 1973, 142 pp.

This collection of articles, all written by the editor, provides a broad transnational view of the development, structure and techniques of adult education. Its specific intent is to challenge its readers to scrutinize the major European models of worker education and hopefully borrow that which is relevant and workable within their own economics. The volume includes eighteen articles: twelve of these were originally published in journals of education within the past decade.

The initial article outlines the development and structure of the French vocational education system, one of the earliest efforts in this direction. Worker education in England is covered in the next three articles. Topics include the Cadbury institutions for secondary schooling, the model adult education programs of the Workers' Education Association, and the experimental approach of the Open University. The Soviet Union is then briefly treated in an essay on its highly centralized and comprehensive educational programs.

One of the lengthier works in this collection describes the Geneva based Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT). The author traces its evolution from a Jewish welfare effort to a complex institution with major on-going programs in France, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. A detailed view is provided of ORT's manpower surveys and centres for program development and teacher trainings.

Germany's significant influence on worker education is described in three articles. One deals with leadership college of the German labour federation (DGB), while the others outline the emergence of that country's frequently emulated models of vocational education.

The remaining eight articles are devoted to the Scandinavian experience with vocational training, retraining and adult continuing education. After a short introductory essay, three works describe the Danish folk high school and the programs of the Danish Workers'

Education Association. The next pair of articles present short treatments of Sweden's manpower training institutions and the popular study circles. Attention is then directed toward Norway's system of vocational education and the recently developed district colleges. The last piece in the series concerns itself with Finland's approach to population shifts and changing manpower requirements.

The author concludes his anthology by comparing the numerous models on a general level, carefully avoiding the temptation of making any sweeping prescriptions for resolving North America's manpower problems. His brief and well written articles manage to cover a wide variety of worker education programs and techniques. It might be reasonably argued that too heavy an emphasis has been placed on Scandinavian approaches or that the international effort of ORT has been misclassified as a European model. Nevertheless the author succeeds in presenting a stimulating overview of worker education within a cross cultural framework.

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**Reuther**, par Frank Cormier et William J. Eaton, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1970, 475 pp.

Walter Reuther a certainement été un des dirigeants syndicaux américains dont la personnalité et le caractère ont marqué l'évolution du syndicalisme dans ce pays depuis l'époque de Roosevelt avec son New Deal.

Dans cette biographie, les auteurs retracent la vie du personnage depuis son enfance jusqu'à sa mort prématurée en 1970. Ils montrent le jeune Walter dans son milieu familial où se développe déjà sa vocation syndicale. Ils permettent de le suivre dans ses premières expériences de travailleur et, à la suite de son coup de tête, dans son tour d'Europe qui le conduit à aller travailler dans une usine en Russie communiste. A son retour aux Etats-Unis, c'est alors toute sa carrière de dirigeant syndical qui est racontée en le suivant comme organisateur d'abord réussissant à briser la résistance patronale et à implanter le syndicalisme chez **General Motors** à Flint et ensuite gravissant la hiérarchie