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POLITICAL ACTION AND SOCIAL IDENTITY

Class, Locality and Ideology

Edited by Gareth Rees, Janet Bujra, Paul Littlewood,
Howard Newby and Teresa L. Rees

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Preface and Acknowledgements

The papers collected together in this book (and its companion, *Restructuring Capital: Recession and Reorganisation in Industrial Society*) were all presented at the 1983 British Sociological Association Conference, held at University College, Cardiff, on the theme 'The Periphery of Industrial Society'. The papers have been revised by their authors, in the light of discussion at the Conference and comments from ourselves.

In selecting rather a small number of papers, we have found it impossible to be *representative* of the enormous diversity that was presented at the conference. Rather, we hope that this collection is illustrative of some of the contemporary developments in the analysis of the determinants of political consciousness and action. More specifically, as the subtitle indicates, the volume is focused upon the interrelationships between class, locality and ideology in the determination of such action: interrelationships which manifest in a particularly acute form at the 'periphery of industrial society'. Accordingly, what follows is not simply of interest to academic social scientists, but also is relevant to many practical political debates which are current. However, it may be, of course, that this is not the 'relevance' which has itself now become such a pressing political concern.

In preparing this volume we have been helped by a number of people; it is a pleasure to record our thanks publicly. Anne Dix at the BSA office was the lynchpin in organising the conference which has made this volume possible; Mike Milotte, also at the BSA office, has been a most effective liaison with the publishers; and Anne-Lucie Norton has been a tolerant and supportive editor at Macmillan.

GARETH REES
JANET BUJRA
PAUL LITTLEWOOD
HOWARD NEWBY
TERESA L. REES

Notes on the Contributors

Janet Bujra is a Lecturer in the Department of Economic and Social History and Sociology at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Philip Cooke is a Lecturer in the Department of Town Planning at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff.

Steve Cornish is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Administrative and Social Studies at Teesside Polytechnic.

Graham Day is a Lecturer in the Department of Economic and Social History and Sociology at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Chris Gerry is a Lecturer in the Centre for Development Studies at the University College of Swansea.

Paul Littlewood is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Glasgow.

Howard Newby is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Director of the ESRC Survey Archive at the University of Essex.

Liam O'Dowd is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Studies at the Queen's University of Belfast.

C.G. Pickvance is a Senior Lecturer and Director in the Urban and Regional Studies Unit at the University of Kent at Canterbury.

M.R. Redclift is a Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Studies and Countryside Planning at Wye College and the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London.

Gareth Rees is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at University College, Cardiff and in the Department of Town Planning at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff.

Teresa L. Rees is a Research Fellow in the Sociological Research Unit at University College, Cardiff.

R. James Sacouman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Graham Suggett is a Research Fellow in the Department of Economic and Social History and Sociology at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.