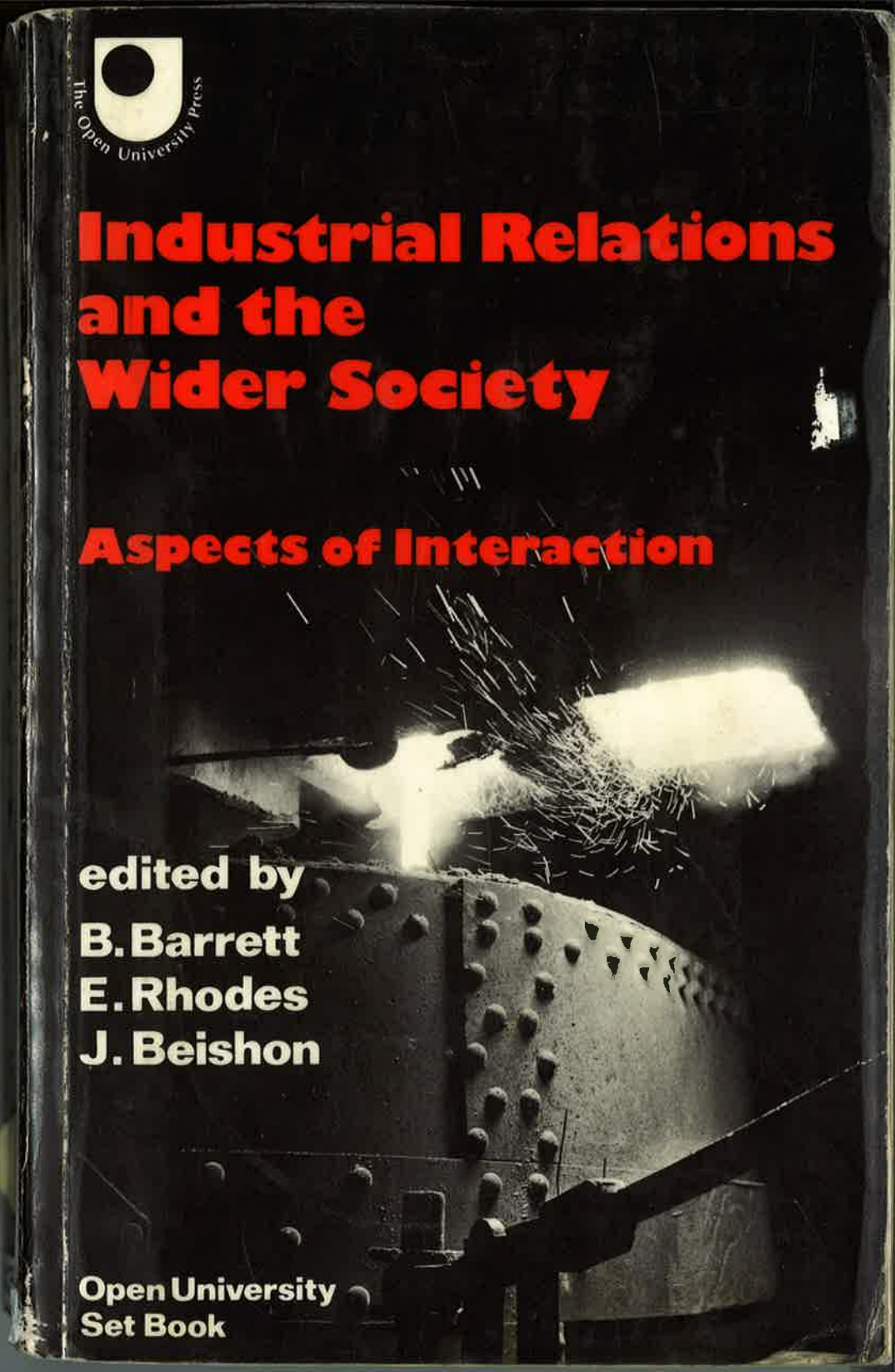
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Industrial Relations and the Wider Society

Aspects of Interaction



edited by
B. Barrett
E. Rhodes
J. Beishon

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Industrial Relations and the Wider Society

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Aspects of Interaction

Edited by BRIAN BARRETT
ED RHODES and JOHN BEISHON
Assisted by GAIL MIDGLEY

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Over the past two decades there has been continual public debate about how the industrial relations system should be changed. In this collection the editors put forward the view that effective reform is only possible if the proposals made are compatible with the strategic variables affecting the industrial relations system; variables which occur both within industrial relations and the wider social environment. Reforms must start with identification of these strategic variables and proceed by empirical investigation of their interaction with the rest of the industrial relations system.

This book provides the basis for such an investigation; the editors have collected together articles which provide a pluridisciplinary approach to the study of industrial relations. An all-embracing coverage of this well-documented subject would not be possible, and has not been attempted. The articles reflect something of the range of views about this controversial subject; some typify particular approaches to the study of industrial relations or provide important insights into aspects of the subject, others summarize a number of viewpoints.

The book, which is to be used as an Open University set book, is divided into sections, each with a short introduction. Its presentation is geared to the Open University's Industrial Relations course.

The Editors

Brian Barrett is Lecturer in Industrial Relations at Bath University School of Management.

Edward Rhodes is Lecturer in Industrial Relations at the Open University.

John Beishon is Professor of Systems at the Open University.

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