EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

A COMPARATIVE STUDY

EDITED BY JOHN P. WINDMULLER AND ALAN GLADSTONE

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JOHN P. WINDMULLER
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In almost every Western industrialized country employers associations hold a key position in industrial relations. They represent their members in collective bargaining, co-ordinate employer strategy during strikes and lock-outs, offer a wide range of technical and legal services, and often maintain a powerful lobby to defend and promote employer interests. Yet the scholarly literature on industrial relations has so far paid little attention to them. This book helps to fill this significant gap in the literature. It is the first to examine comparatively the role of employers associations in the industrial relations systems of Western industrial democracies and to document the widely shared view that they are important components of that system.

Ten of the twelve chapters cover individual countries: Britain, USA, Australia, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, Israel and Japan. Each is written by an outstanding specialist and typically follows a common sequence: the overall context in which employers associations operate; their history, present structure, and administration; the functions of central employers federations and individual industry associations; and prospective developments. Two comparative chapters, written by the editors of this volume who both have well-established reputations in this field, identify and examine in depth certain common themes emerging from the country studies.

This book should be of value to teachers, students, and practitioners of industrial relations as well as business administration and the social sciences in all parts of the industrialized world.

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