

Title	Workers' Participation in Industry
Author	Poole, Michael.
Source	Routledge & K. Paul
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Brief Introduction	<p style="text-align: center;">Preface</p> <p>I have endeavoured within the compass of a single volume to draw together material from a wide range of practices designed to extend the control of workers over decisions within their places of employment. It is my considered view that, notwithstanding their disparate origins, these experiments have a certain unity and that the principles which bind them together are made intelligible by reference to deep-rooted causes in economic, political, and social life. If, therefore, a principal aim of this study is to maintain interest in and to create a sympathetic attitude towards developments in this direction, the primary focus is inescapably explanatory.</p> <p>It was originally my intention to produce a text which was both more theoretical and more empirical in content and, in particular, I would have drawn substantially on the research which formed the basis of my doctoral dissertation. However, in modifying these first tentative proposals I was provided with the twin opportunities of extending my coverage and of subjecting my original thesis to the challenge of new data. Apart from the intellectual enjoyment this afforded the net effect will, I hope, be a book of interest to the general reader as well as the specialist.</p> <p>In this prefatory note, I should also like to avail myself of the opportunity to record my appreciation of the contributions of friends and colleagues. I owe the greatest debt to my wife, Anne, a fellow sociologist, who was not only an unfailing source of encouragement but who also read through every chapter and made many helpful suggestions. I am also indebted to those workpeople and managers who, in giving of their time, helped in countless ways in the formulation of my ideas but whose anonymity I respect. I must however mention Mr Bill Walker who without doubt taught me far more about industrial relations than I could have grasped from almost any textbook and so I, along with many others, will be forever in his debt. My doctoral dissertation was supervised by Dr David Lee who is now at the University of</p> <p>Essex and both Annette Kuhn and Bridget Pym read through and made helpful comments on an early draft of the opening chapter here. I should also like to thank in addition, the many secretaries who were involved in one way or another in preparation of the typescript, namely Sylvia Clarke, Beryl Ibbotson, Thelma Kassell, Sylvia Lockey, Margaret Sayles, Margaret Scarr and Renee Shaw. Finally, however, the responsibility for the arguments advanced here is of course entirely my own.</p> <p><i>Department of Sociological Studies University of Sheffield</i></p>