

THE OECD AND THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY SINCE 1948

Edited by Matthieu Leimgruber & Matthias Schmelzer



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Editors

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CONTENTS

Introduction: Writing Histories of the OECD Matthieu Leimgruber and Matthias Schmelzer	1
From the Marshall Plan to Global Governance: Historical Transformations of the OEEC/OECD, 1948 to Present Matthieu Leimgruber and Matthias Schmelzer	23
A Short Guide to Historical Archives, Online Resources, and Research Materials on the OEEC/OECD	59
Part I Being Part of the West	
Western European Vs. All-European Cooperation? The OEEC, the European Recovery Program, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), 1947–1952 Daniel Stinsky	65
A Socialist Developing Country in a Western Capitalist Club: Yugoslavia and the OEEC/OECD, 1955–1980 Andrej Marković and Ivan Obadić	89

Shall We or Shall We Not? The Japanese, Australian, and New Zealand Decisions to Apply for Membership in the OECD, 1960–1973	113
Peter Carroll	

The Construction of a Western Voice: OECD and the First UNCTAD of 1964	137
Patricia Hongler	

Part II Managing the Economy

From Post-war Reconstruction to Multi-level Neo-corporatism: The OEEC/OECD and Steel During the Cold War	161
Wolfram Kaiser	

A Crisis Manager for the International Monetary and Financial System? The Rise and Fall of the OECD Working Party 3, 1961–1980	185
Kazuhiko Yago	

Peer Pressure in Paris: Country Reviews at the OECD in the 1960s and 1970s	209
William Glenn Gray	

“Positive Adjustments”: The Emergence of Supply-Side Economics in the OECD and G7, 1970–1984	233
Samuel Beroud	

Part III Coping with Socio-ecological Challenges

The Narrowing-Down of the OEEC/OECD Migration Functions, 1947–1986	261
Emmanuel Comte and Simone Paoli	

Engineering the Free World: The Emergence of the OECD as an Actor in Education Policy, 1957–1972	285
Regula Bürgi	
Negotiating Environment: The Making of the OECD Environment Committee and the Polluter Pays Principle, 1968–1972	311
Iris Borowy	
Gendering Development: The OECD’s Development Assistance Committee, 1981–2000	335
Rianne Mahon	
Index	357

ABBREVIATIONS

BIAC	Business and Industry Advisory Committee (OECD)
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CEEC	Committee of European Economic Co-operation
CERI	Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (OECD)
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CSTP	Committee for Scientific and Technical Personnel (OECD)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DAG	Development Assistance Group (OEEC)
ECA	Economic Cooperation Administration
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDRC	Economic and Development Review Committee (OECD)
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EPA	European Productivity Agency (OEEC)
EPC	Economic Policy Committee (OECD)
EPU	European Payments Union (OEEC)
ERP	European Recovery Program
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G10	Group of Ten of the International Monetary Fund
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MSAC	Manpower and Social Affairs Committee (OECD)
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization

ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OEEC	Organization for European Economic Co-operation
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD)
PPP	Polluter Pays Principle
TUAC	Trade Union Advisory Council (OECD)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization
WP3	Working Party 3 of the EPC (OECD)

The Narrowing-Down of the OEEC/ OECD Migration Functions, 1947–1986

Emmanuel Comte and Simone Paoli

This chapter shows how member states gradually defined the functions of the OEEC, later the OECD, in the field of migration policies, from its inception in 1947 until the mid-1980s, when those functions were finally stabilized. When the Organization was created, it was supposed to be influential in migration politics in Western Europe. The functions of an international organization might vary and range toward an increasing role to govern international relations. With *information* functions, an organization is mainly in charge of studies in order to advise member states implementing national policies.¹ With *coordination* functions, the organization serves as a forum to specify member states' respective national actions so as to reduce friction between those actions, using binding norms (*strong coordination*) or not (*weak coordination*).²

Emmanuel Comte is primarily responsible for the introduction and the first part while Simone Paoli is primarily responsible for the second part and the conclusion.

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261

When an organization assumes *cooperation* functions, member states use the organization to carry out joint actions in that domain, which implies devolving responsibility for the management of those joint actions to one or several international institutions. Finally, when member states give an organization *integration* functions, the complete management of a defined domain of their relations is transferred to the organization and no longer pertains to the level of national policy.³

This chapter shows that member states initially expected the OEEC to perform functions at the level of *cooperation*, or even *integration* in migration policies, but that over time it came to assume functions at the level of *coordination*, and more and more at the strict level of *information*. To analyze the underlying reasons for these shifts, we scrutinize the debates within the Organization and pay particular attention to the strategies and preferences of the most important states in the Western European migration system. These included the United States, one of the main actors within the Organization in general, but also major Western European immigration states, namely France, Britain, and West Germany. Diplomats and experts represented those national governments in the OEEC/OECD. We also scrutinize the role of the OECD Secretariat in developing *information* functions in the 1970s and 1980s.

This chapter is based on documents held in the archives of the OECD in Paris, in particular those of the Manpower Committee. In addition, we have used targeted documents from French, German, Italian, and US archives to complete our sources about OEEC negotiations. The first part of this chapter is devoted to the early years of the Cold War, from 1947 to the aftermath of the re-foundation of the OECD in 1961. The second part analyzes the period starting with the restrictive shift in national migration policies in Western Europe in the late 1960s up to the mid-1980s.

FACILITATING MIGRATION IN WESTERN EUROPE IN THE EARLY COLD WAR, 1947 TO MID-1960s

When founding the OEEC to administer Marshall Plan aid, member states agreed on broad ambitions to solve disturbing migratory tensions in the Cold War context. Unemployment in West Germany and Italy in the late 1940s threatened political stability and favored Communist parties, which endangered the cohesion of Western Europe. Facilitating migration movements between member countries could reduce unemployment and contribute to the containment of Soviet influence.