

Varieties of Capitalism: The Dutch Case

Editorial introduction by Jacques van Gerwen

To the review essays of L.J. Touwen, *Coordination in Transition. The Netherlands and the world economy, 1950-2010* (Leiden: Uitgeverij Brill 2014) 385 p. ISBN: 9789004272552, E-ISBN: 9789004272583

In 2001 the political scientists Peter Hall and David Soskice built a framework for comparing different national economies in their book *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations for Comparative Advantage*.¹ Since then their propositions have been debated, confirmed, contradicted and improved upon. One of the participants in the Varieties of Capitalism (VoC) debate is Jeroen Touwen, associate professor in economic and social history at Leiden University and scientific director of the N.W. Posthumus Institute.² In his book *Coordination in Transition. The Netherlands and the world economy, 1950-2010* Jeroen Touwen presents a broad analysis of the Dutch economy, analysing its development after the Second World War within the VoC context.³ It has become a highly informative book in which Touwen addresses the vast literature on the different manifestations of capitalism and in which he analyses the changes and continuity of institutions. He argues that the Dutch economy, an open economy with a tight net of coordinating institutions, was and still is rich in non-market coordination, but that non-market coordination is a very dynamic phenomena.

The editorial board of this journal invited three experts on the social and economic post-war history of the Netherlands to reflect on Jeroen Touwen's book: Keetie Sluyterman, former professor of business history at Utrecht University, Hein Klemann, professor in social and economic history, Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication, Erasmus University (Rotterdam) and Dennie Oude Nijhuis, assistant professor at the department of history (University Leiden). By way of an introduction this collection of reviews is preceded by a short

1 Peter Hall and David Soskice, *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations for Comparative Advantage* (Oxford 2001).

2 This is the international interuniversity research school for economic and social history, which forms a platform for the coordination of research initiatives and organizes the PhD training in economic and social history in the Netherlands and Flanders.

3 L.J. Touwen, *Coordination in Transition. The Netherlands and the world economy, 1950-2010* (Leiden 2014).

