

The Origins of Collective Decision Making

Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Preface	1
Introduction	3
Collective Decision Making	3
The Germ Cell of Collective Decision Making	4
Four Paradigms of Collective Decision Making	6
Three Paradigms of Collaboration	7
The Realisation of Decision Making in Procedures	8
Realist Historical Investigation	11
The Subjective Starting Point	15
Going Back and Coming Forward	15
Part 1. Majority	17
The London Workingmen's Association	18
The British Trade Unions in 1824	19
Anglo-Saxon England	23
The Witenagemot	25
The Shire Courts	28
The Hundred Courts	28
The Guilds	29
The Norman Imposition	31
The Question of Continuity	32
Medieval Church Practice	32
The Guilds	35
Election of Officials	37
Winstanley On the Guilds	40
Decision making Processes	40
Oxford and Cambridge University	42
The East India Company	43
Journeyman's Guilds and the Early Trade Unions	43
The Hanseatic League	46
The Methodist Church	47
Class	48
The Class Ticket	49

The Society or Church	49
The Circuit.....	49
Local Preachers and Travelling Preachers.....	49
District	50
The Methodist Connexion	51
Conference.....	51
London Corresponding Society	55
The personalities of the LCS	55
How the LCS organised itself.....	57
Summary.....	64
The Chartists.....	67
The English Reform Act of 1832	67
The Charter	68
Women	69
The “Northern Star”.....	70
Chartist Activity	71
The Petitions	71
National Charter Association	74
The Majoritarian ethos and Class Consciousness	76
Consensus between Majority and Minority?.....	77
The Aftermath.....	78
Insurrectionary Activity during the Chartist Period	79
The Communist Secret Societies.....	81
The General Workers Unions.....	85
The End of Uncritical Majoritarianism	91
Europe between the Wars	93
The Front	94
Part 2. Consensus.....	97
English Revolution and the Quakers	103
The English Revolution.....	103
The Levellers and the New Model Army	104
Gerard Winstanley and the Diggers.....	108
Ranters and Seekers.....	111
The Quakers.....	113
The Quakers in Twentieth Century Pennsylvania	121
The Quaker Critique	124
New England Town Meetings	127

The Peace and Civil Rights Movements	129
James Lawson.....	134
The Danish Folkehøjskole	139
Myles Horton and the Highlander	141
Highlander	142
Decision making.....	145
Segregation	146
The Civil Rights Movement	147
SNCC.....	150
The African and Slave Roots of the Black Baptist Churches.....	155
African decision making.....	155
The Baptist Church under Slavery	156
Conclusion.....	158
Eleanor Garst and Women Strike for Peace	159
Women Strike for Peace	161
The “structure” of WSP.....	164
WSP and Feminism	166
The Quakers and Movement for a New Society.....	169
Anarchism and Decision Making	173
The International Workingmen’s Association 1864.....	174
The Spanish Anarchists	178
The Third Congress of the Spanish Federation in 1872	179
The Workers’ Federation of the Spanish Region 1880	179
The CNT (<i>Confederación Nacional del Trabajo</i>).....	180
The FAI (<i>Federación Anarquista Ibérica</i>)	182
Summary.....	183
Part 3. The Post World War Settlement	185
The Negation of Social Movements	187
The Negation of Negation – the rise of alliance politics	189
Alliance politics.....	190
Consensus now and then	191
Conclusion	192
References	195
Index	200

Acknowledgements

Covering 1,000 years of history was only possible thanks to the willing help of numerous people, either experts or participants in the relevant events who freely gave of their time to guide me through unfamiliar territory. In particular I must thank Mitch Abidor (Historian, translator), Malcolm Chase (Professor of Social History, University of Leeds), Ben Dandelion (Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies, University of Birmingham), Brecht de Smet, Bernard Muir (Anglo-Saxon Culture, University of Melbourne), Ann Upton (Friends Historical Association), Robert Gribben (Methodist historian), Jo Freeman (radical feminist activist), Casey Hayden (former SNCC, WSP and SDS activist), Mary Elizabeth King (former SNCC activist, non-violence activist), Keith Laybourn (President of the Society for the Study of Labour History), and Barbara Mott, Betsy Raasch-Gilman, Carol Hollinger, David Fasenfest, Helena Worthen, Janette Martin, Jeremy Dixon, Kotaro Takagi (Japan), Lars Klüver (Denmark), Lyn McKenzie, Lynn Beaton, Maureen Murphy, Maureen Postma, Riki Lane, Robert Williams, Ron Lubensky and Ted Crawford.