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The Nature of Human Conflict, edited by Elton B. McNeil,
Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1965. 315 pages.

Alan Barrett

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[See table of contents](#)

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souligne que pour la plupart des Américains, la libre concurrence est depuis longtemps un concept davantage politique qu'économique. Et il écrit finalement que l'action contre les combines est devenue une technique après avoir été une idéologie.

Au chapitre suivant, « The New Place of Business », Earl F. Cheit se demande pourquoi les dirigeants d'entreprise s'intéressent autant à la responsabilité sociale. Certains critiques prétendent qu'on n'a pas trouvé de substitut opératoire à la maximisation du profit au bénéfice des actionnaires; d'autres affirment que les dirigeants veulent légitimer leur pouvoir qui ne découle pas de la propriété par la responsabilité sociale.

Pour sa part Paul A. Samuelson, dans le chapitre six intitulé « Personal Freedoms and Economic Freedoms in the Mixed Economy », distingue deux notions de capitalisme, l'ancienne axée sur la maximisation du profit et la nouvelle « managerial capitalism ». L'auteur fait remarquer entre autres choses que le degré de concentration de la propriété parmi différentes corporations influence peu leur comportement.

Dans le dernier chapitre, on peut lire deux excellents textes: l'un de Philippe De Woot intitulé « The European Business » et l'autre de Gilbert M. Sauvage qui traite « The French Businessman in His Milieu ».

Bertrand Belzile

The Nature of Human Conflict, Edited by Elton B. McNeil, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1965. 315 pages.

A cursory examination of what is in fact a panoramic view by a number of social scientists of the problem of human conflict leads one to ask where the reader might want to focus his attention.

Here is a text that examines human conflict by applying the tools of knowledge derived from the social sciences in such a way as to focus the readers eye on the problem now with the telescope of the sociologist, now the anthropologist and now the economist, etc.

The series of essays form a whole if — viewing **a priori** the complexity of conflicts on the grand scale — one wishes to attempt to get to the bottom of it all. For it is clearly the editor's goal to put to work top social scientists in each of their respective disciplines and to treat a problem that heretofore has been insoluble, to say the

least. The attempt is fascinating, if perhaps a bit facile.

K. Boulding's article « The Economics of Conflicts » is perhaps the most interesting article for readers of this Journal and his usual livid mind explains with keen insight the conflict content of economics and focuses particularly on the content of the « rational » of conflict in labour-management relations.

Eaton B. McNeil has compiled a list of famous enough names and concentrated social science disciplines on the types of human conflict, that the book has at least the merit of demonstrating hope that the conflicts can be resolved when sufficient analysis are applied to their content.

In short, this is a text of the general reader variety, though the general reader might at least want to be a social scientist.

Alan Barrett

Blue Collar World: Studies of the American Worker, Arthur B. Shostak and William Gomberg, Prentice-Hall Inc., 1964. 616 pages.

The work presents a detailed examination of the style of life of America's blue-collar workers with a good deal of emphasis on family relationships and environments as well. The study is in fact a collection of some 61 essays by as many authors with the main emphasis being on the workers life outside of work.

Individual essays by sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists and others on a wide variety of topics form the core of the work. A listing of some of the areas of study examined will indicate in a broad manner the scope of the work: Persistence and change in working; Class life style; The behavior and values of skilled workers; Middle-class misconceptions about lower-class families; Mental strain in the blue-collar family; Moral perspectives of blue-collar workers; The meaning of work...

A work designed perhaps more for the case of « personnel managers » than industrial relations people, the studies are of particular interest to those involved in sociology, psychology and social and public health work. For as the jacket suggests: « The volume includes studies from many disciplines and ranges widely over pre 8 a.m. and past 5 p.m. areas of working class life ».