



[HEADING3 LIGHT/BOLD]

Paths towards an Input Democracy: Critical Junctures in the Early History of Swedish Civil Society

The paper analyzes through a historical institutional perspective how some critical events contributed to the shaping of the Swedish political culture and in particular the relationship between civil society organizations and interest groups and the state. It is argued in the present study that how the Anglosaxon preachers inspired the organization of new evangelical churches also influenced how the labour movement came to model their local organizations. Historical studies show how both ideas about political behavior and organizational structures were transferred between organizations through overlapping leadership at the local level.

The institution of a pre-democratic form of political representation was developed in the relationship between interest groups and members of parliaments. The power-balance in this relationship shifted through changes in the electoral system. This relationship is argued to have influenced Sweden into becoming an input democracy with focus on consensus rather than conflict with effects in contemporary politics. This paper will contribute to the understanding of how the temporal order of events and the shaping of political institutions may have lasting impact on the political culture.