

E. Ballerstedt und Wolfgang Glatzer unter Mitarbeit von K.U. Mayer und W. Zapf: Soziologischer Almanach. Handbuch gesellschaftspolitischer Daten und Indikatoren für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Frankfurt und New York: Campus Verlag. 2. Aufl. 1977, DM 38,--.

W. Zapf, Hg., Lebensbedingungen in der Bundesrepublik. Sozialer Wandel und Wohlfahrtsentwicklung. Frankfurt und New York: Campus Verlag. 2. Aufl. 1978, DM 64,--.

The two books represent results of the impressive efforts Wolfgang Zapf and collaborators have undertaken in West Germany in the area of social indicators as part of the SPES project ("Sozialpolitisches Entscheidungs- und Indikatorensystem für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland"). The handbook by Ballerstedt and Glatzer gives a thorough overview over basic data available in order to describe essential social characteristics of the West German society. Topics included refer inter alia to the educational system, social mobility, women, mass communication systems, the income distribution, marginal groups. The volume edited by Zapf is more than just a handbook on social indications. It gives a rather detailed discussion of some areas of the West German society stressing very much processes of change over time and the quality of life as it can be inferred from the available indicators. Topics covered in the volume concern the demographic change in the population, social stratification and mobility, labor market and employment conditions, income distribution and income use, public and private transport, housing, health, education and political participation. Both books already now, without doubt, belong to the classical, standard literature in the field. They are of interest to everyone who wants to assess the present state of the West German society or wants to know what kind of changes have taken place there within the last ten to twenty years.

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