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# Trade Unions in Western Europe since 1945

“The Societies of Europe” Data Handbook Series

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[www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/lsoz3](http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/lsoz3)

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FAKULTÄT FÜR SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN

Lehrstuhl für Soziologie III – Makrosoziologie

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UNIVERSITÄT  
MANNHEIM

# „The Societies of Europe“ Series

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Coordinated at MZES /  
Eurodata Archive

## Major objectives:

- Data on the **long-term** development of European societies
- **Comparison** of similarities and differences across Europe
- Introduction into using data and brief **analysis** of main result
- **Easy access** to comparable data and related documentation (Tables, CD-ROM)

## *Predecessor:*

- *State, Economy, and Society in Western Europe 1815-1975, 2 vols., P. Flora et al. 1983/1987*

## *Published, 2000 - 2005:*

- *Trade **Unions** in Western Europe since 1945*
- ***Elections** in Western Europe since 1815: Electoral Results by Constituencies*
- *The European **Population** 1850-1945*
- *The European Population since 1945*

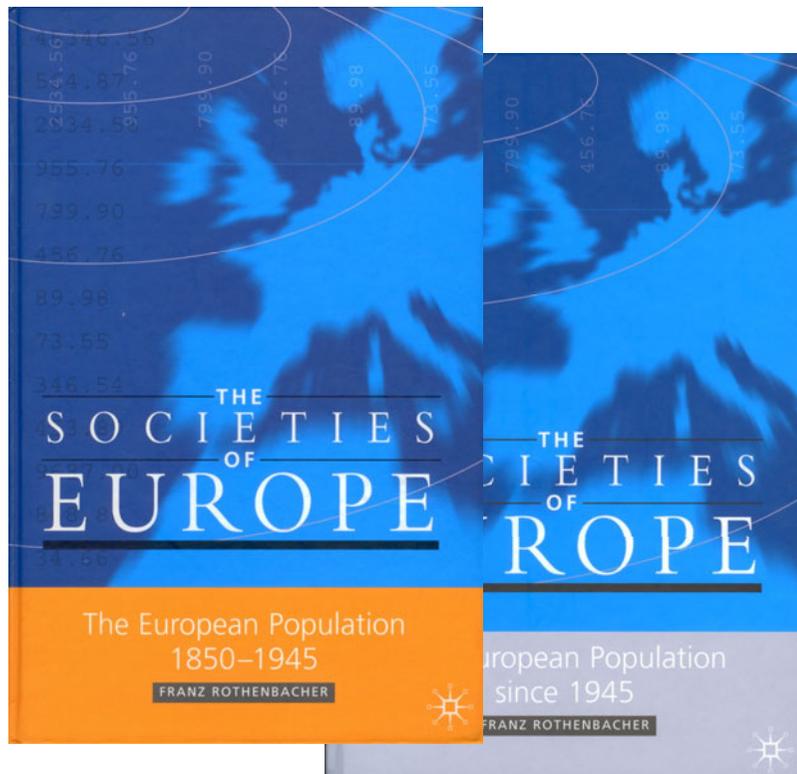
## *Forthcoming in 2006:*

- *European **Regions**: The Territorial Structure of Europe since the late 19th Century*

## *In preparation:*

- *The European **Labour Force** since 1880*
- *European **Social Security** Systems, 1885-1945*

# The European Population



Franz Rothenbacher  
(2002, 2005):

*The European Population, Vol. 1: 1850 – 1945.*

*Vol. 2: since 1945*

London: Palgrave Macmillan

## Content:

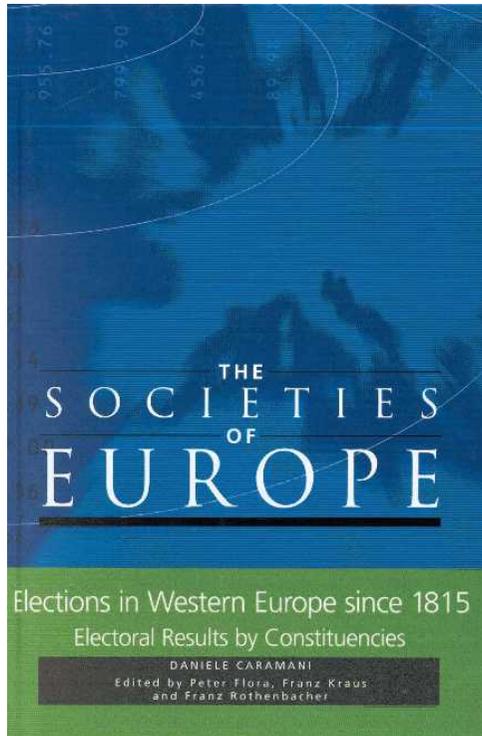
- Population structure at census dates (age, sex, and marital status)
- Population growth (births, deaths, net migration)
- Mortality and life expectancy
- Fertility and legitimacy
- Marriage and divorce
- Family and household structures
- Comprehensive database (on CD)

## Coverage:

- 1850-1945; since 1945 (more detailed data on marriage / divorce, fertility, and household structure)
- All West European countries (incl. Luxembourg, Greece, Iceland)
- Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and successor states

# *Elections in Western Europe since 1815*

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Daniele Caramani (2000):  
*Elections in Western Europe since 1815. Electoral Results by Constituencies*  
London: Palgrave Macmillan

## Content:

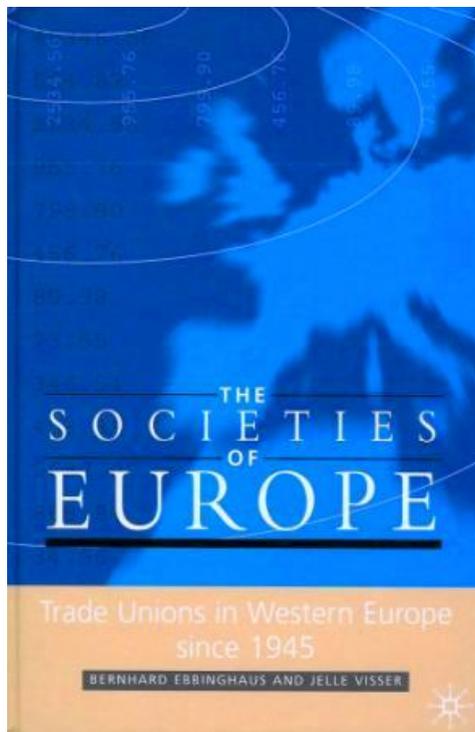
- Development of electoral laws (elections to national parliament)
- Dates and types of elections to national parliaments
- The development of party systems
- Organizational history of parties
- Territorial units in election statistics
- Linkability of constituencies to administrative statistics
- Electorate, turnout and votes by party
- Comprehensive database (on CD)

## Coverage:

- Since 1815
- Western Europe, incl. Greece, Luxembourg and Iceland
- National level by constituencies

## *Trade Unions in Western Europe since 1945*

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Bernhard Ebbinghaus and  
Jelle Visser (2000):  
*Trade Unions in Western Europe  
since 1945*  
London: Palgrave Macmillan

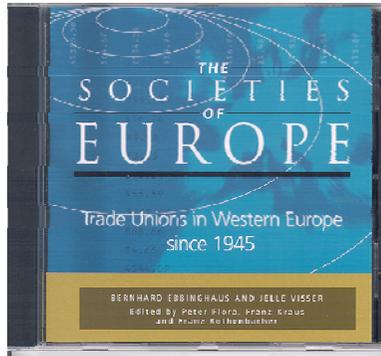
### Content:

- Political development and labour relations
- Formation of parties, employer and union organizations
- Unions and Confederations: organizational history and profiles
- Membership data and union densities
- Comprehensive database (on CD): aggregate time-series and organizational data

### Coverage:

- Since 1945
- National level:  
all West European countries (excl. Luxembourg, Greece)
- European level

# CD-ROM



**European organizations** (ETUC's member organizations and its European Industry Federations)

**Comparative tables and indicators** (aggregate and confederation level) across Western Europe

**Countries covered** (1945-): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (1950-), Ireland, Italy (1950-), the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal (1975-), Spain (1977-), Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom / Great Britain



**Type of information**  
Tables - Databases - Documentation  
VERSION: Only selected links to tables, databases and documentation

*Please select type of information above*

**Introduction**  
**European Level**  
**Comparison**  
**Country:**

- Austria (AU)
- Belgium (BE)
- Denmark (DE)
- Finland (FI)
- France (FR)
- Germany (GE)
- Ireland (IR)
- Italy (IT)
- Netherlands (NE)
- Norway (NO)
- Portugal (PO)
- Spain (SP)
- Sweden (SW)
- Switzerland (SZ)
- U.K./GB (UK)

**Tables**  
*Provides PDF print tables or EXCEL tables*

- Handbook Tables 10, 13-19
- Additional tables by major unions (not included in handbook)

**Databases**  
*Provides databases in ACCESS or DBF with*

- Aggregate membership and union density
- Confederation history and membership
- Union history, sector coding and membership

**Documentation**  
*Provides additional documentation (in HTML) on*

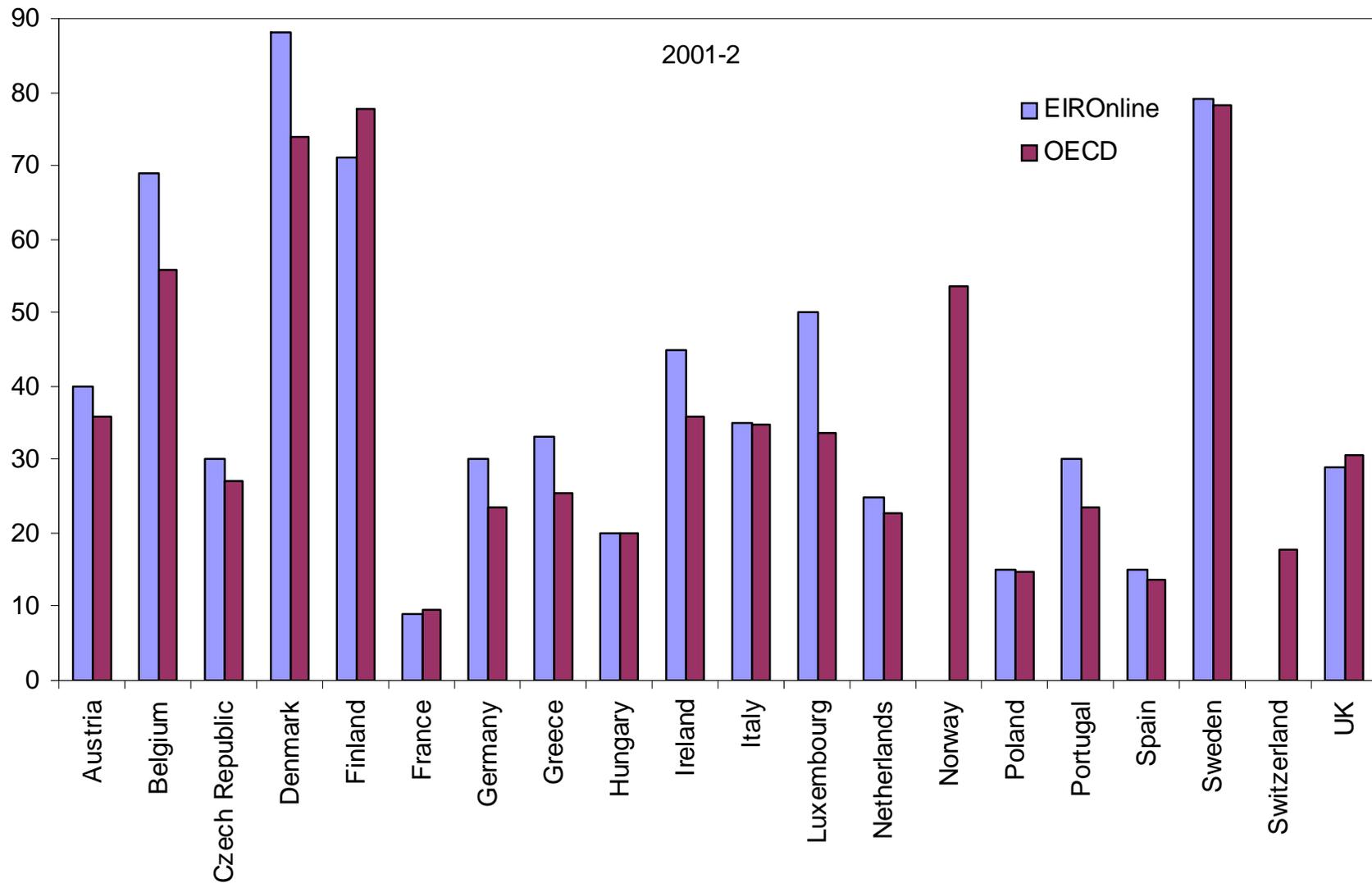
- Confederation directory
- Union directory
- Variable list
- Notes on membership series

# Informationsdatenbanken

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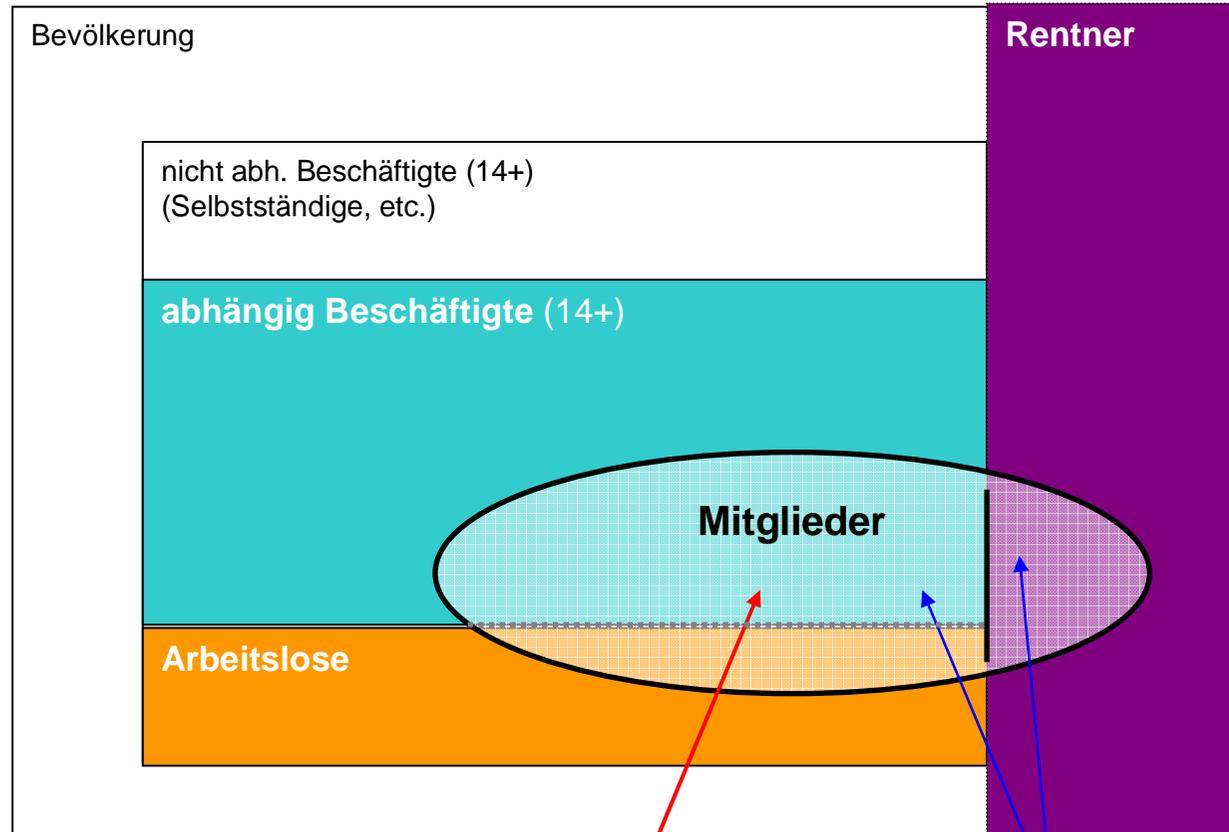
- **European Industrial Relations Observatory (EIRO):** seit 1997  
monatlicher Info-Dienst zu nationalen und transnationalen Entwicklungen in der EU  
<http://www.eiro.eurofound.eu.int/structure.html> (Dublin Foundation)
  - Trade union membership (TN0403105U)
  - Industrial relations in the EU, Japan and USA (
- **European Union – DG Employment & Social Affairs**  
Berichte über Arbeitsbeziehungen (u.a. High Level Group 2001)  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/)
  - *Industrial Relations in Europe* 2000, 2002, 2004
- **OECD**  
Adhoc Studien und Zeitreihendatensatz (unregelmäßige Aktualisierung), 1970-
  - *Employment Outlook* (union density by Visser, bargaining coverage by Traxler)
- **ILO**  
Adhoc Studien und Zeitreihendatensatz (nicht aktualisiert), 1990s
  - *World Labour Report 1997-1998* (union density, 45 countries by Visser)

# Organisationsgrade (EIROnline / OECD)



# Organisationsgrad als Indikator

## Organisationsgradberechnung

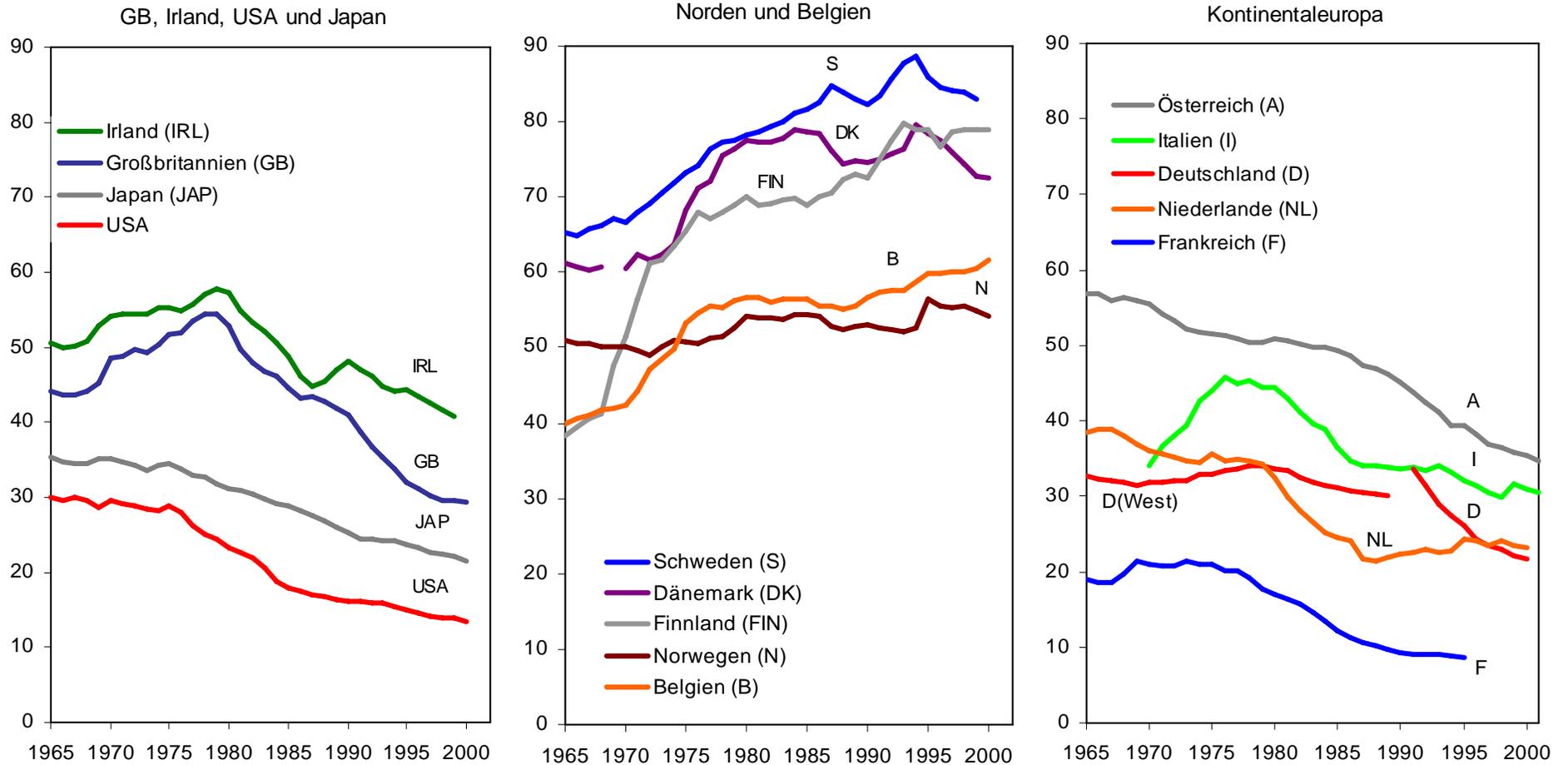


**Nettoorganisationsgrad:**  
nur **aktive** Mitglieder (ohne Rentner) in % der  
abh. Beschäftigten (+ Arbeitlosen)

**Bruttoorganisationsgrad:**  
**alle** Mitglieder in % der  
abh. Beschäftigten (+ Arbeitlosen)

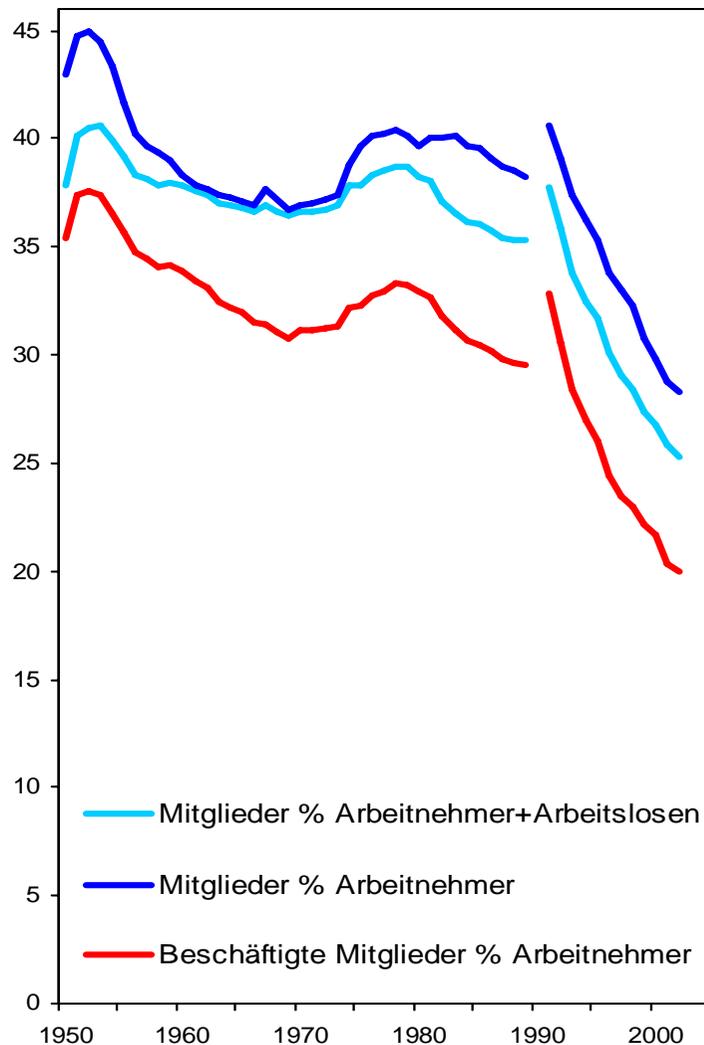
- > Mitgliederzahlen und Organisationsgrad Indikator für:
- Legitimation
  - Unterstützung
  - Beitragsaufkommen
  - Streikmacht
  - Wählerstimmen
  - Interessenlagen

# Mitgliederentwicklung in Europa, USA, Japan



Quelle: B. Ebbinghaus / J. Visser: Trade Unions in Western Europe since 1945, London: Macmillan 2000

# Mitgliedererosion: BRD 1950-2002



Quelle: Ebbinghaus 2003

## Bruttoorganisationsgrad: (mit / ohne Arbeitslosen)

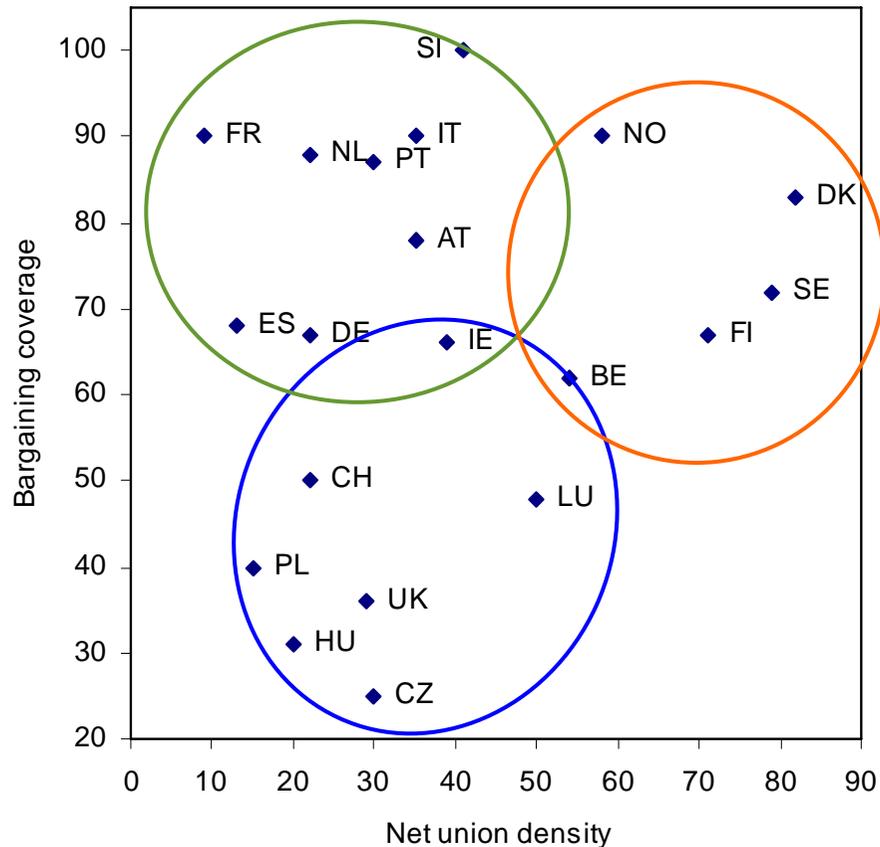
- Rückgang nach 1952, leichter Anstieg (70er), Stagnation (80er),
- Dramatischer Rückgang im Osten, Verlust: 4 Mio. Mitglieder seit 1991

## Nettoorganisationsgrad: Nur noch jeder fünfte Arbeitnehmer Mitglied

NOG	West	Ost
1992	28,7	39,7
2000	25,4	18,5

Quelle: ALLBUS 1992, 2000, nur Deutsche 18-64

# Organisationsgrad und Tarifvertragssystem



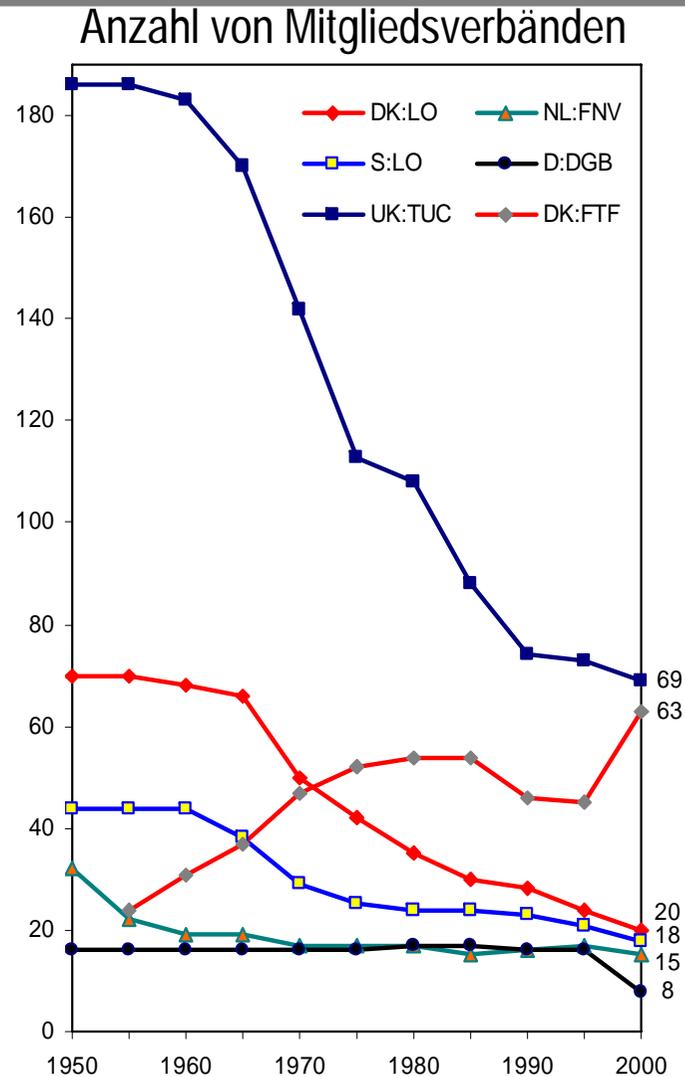
*Density:* Organisationsgrad

*Coverage:* Ausdehnungsgrad von Tarifverträgen

- **Liberales** Marktwirtschaft: Dezentralisiert und **dereguliert**
- "**Rheinischer** Kapitalismus": **geliehene Regulierungsmacht** der Gewerkschaften (staatliche Intervention, starke Arbeitgeberverbände)
- **Korporatismus**: starke zentralisierte Gewerkschaften mit **Regulierungsfähigkeit**

Bargaining coverage in % (OECD, Visser); net density: Ebbinghaus (2002) and others;

# Konzentration seit 1945



## Trend zur Konzentration:

- Integration von lokalen Verbänden in **nationale** Gewerkschaften (☞ TUC)
- Aufnahme- / **Reorganisationspolitik** der Dachverbände
- **Zusammenschluss** von Dachverbänden (NL: FNV, MHP)
- Aufstieg **größerer Verbände** / Aufgabe kleiner Gewerkschaften
- Abnahme bei Arbeitergewerkschaften, Zunahme bei **Angestelltenverbände** (☞ FTF)
- Gezielte **Fusionsstrategie** von Verbänden

📖 B. Ebbinghaus / J. Visser: Trade Unions in Western Europe since 1945, London.

# Zentralisierung oder Fragmentierung

Table 1: Membership and affiliates of major union confederations in Europe, 2001

	Country	Confederation	Orientation or domain	Members (1000s)	% all unions	female share %	N of unions	Effective N*
I	Ireland	ICTU	Labour	759	..	..	55	0.01 <sup>a</sup>
			(Rep.)	543	>97	>40	48	6.3
II	UK	TUC	Labour	6,685	89	>40	69	10.0
			Denmark	LO	1,433	66	48	20
	Finland	SAK	white-collar	365	17	65	63	14.2
			Left	1,069	50	46	24	8.5
	Norway	STTK	white-collar	648	31	69	22	8.3
			academics	407	19	50	33	8.3
	Sweden	LO	Soc.Dem.	796	54	<45	25	>7.2
			white-collar	198	13	..	>15	>7.4
	Austria	ÖGB	public sector	215	15	..	5	2.2
			Soc.Dem.	1,963	52	46	18	6.4
	Belgium <sup>b</sup>	FGTB	white-collar	1,260	34	52	18	5.9
			academics	514	14	48	26	11.3
	Germany	DGB	Unitary	1,421	100	32	13	7.9
			Socialist	1,208	39	50	9	5.1
	Netherlands	FNV	Christian	1,665	54	48	18	19.0
			Unitary	7,700 <sup>d</sup>	83	32	8	3.8
	Switzerland	SGB	public sector	1,224 <sup>d</sup>	13	30	37	15.2
			Unitary	1,223	64	28	15	3.8
	France <sup>b</sup>	CGT	Christian	356	19	26	13	5.5
			white-collar	215	11	31	4	1.8
	Italy <sup>f</sup>	CGIL	Soc.dem.	384	52	21	14	6.4
			Chr./wh-col. <sup>e</sup>	133	18	15	13	4.5
	Spain <sup>c</sup>	UGT	Socialist	811	34	43	20	..
			Leftist	650	27	..	34	..
	Italy <sup>f</sup>	CISL	Syndicalist	370	15	..	33	..
			public sector	350	15	..	>80	..
	Italy <sup>f</sup>	UIL	Left	2,423	45	..	11	9.2
			Christian	1,958	36	..	19	10.3
	Italy <sup>f</sup>	CC.OO	Lib.-Soc.	1,025	19	..	15	10.0
			Leftist	698	41	..	15	11.0
			Socialist	627	40	..	12	8.6

Source: Ebbinghaus and Visser (2000) and updates by author (statistical yearbooks, union reports, and EIROOnline).

Notes: Includes only confederations with more than 10% in overall membership; <sup>a</sup>1998; <sup>b</sup>2000; <sup>c</sup>1997; <sup>d</sup>2002; <sup>e</sup>Travail.Suisse 2002 merger of Christian CNG and white-collar VSA; <sup>f</sup>excluding pensioner union and other non-active membership groups; (Rep.): ICTU membership in Republic of Ireland; N: number of unions; N\*: effective number of unions (weighted by membership share):  $N^* = 1 / (\Delta p_i^2)$ , where share  $p_i = m_i / \sum m_i$ ,  $m_i$  = membership, and  $i = 1$  to  $N$ .

# Verbandssystem

Table 1: Membership concentration within the main union confederations, Europe (EU-15 plus Norway and Switzerland) early 2000s

	Country	Confederation	1st-3rd (%)	4th-5th (%)	Rest (%)	First largest affiliate			Second largest affiliate			Third largest affiliate		
						%	(*)	Union	%	(*)	Union	%	(*)	Union
I	Ireland <sup>a</sup>	ICTU (Rep.)	38.5	9.9	51.5	27.2	G	<u>SIPTU</u>	6.5	G+T	ATGWU	5.1	P	<u>Mandate</u>
			50.4	10.3	39.3	36.6	G	<u>SIPTU</u>	7.1	P	<u>Mandate</u>	6.7	P	<u>IMPACT</u>
	UK	TUC	47.9	15.0	37.2	19.0	P	<u>UNISON</u>	16.2	M+W	<u>AMICUS</u>	12.7	G+T	TGWU
II	Denmark	LO	62.1	14.9	23.0	26.3	W+S	HK	22.2	G	SID	13.6	P	<u>FOA</u>
			45.5	20.2	34.3	17.1	E	Teachers	14.6	H	Nurses	13.8	E	Nursery
	Finland	SAK	54.3	12.3	33.4	19.5	L	Communal	18.9	S	<u>PAM</u>	15.9	M	Metal
			52.1	19.9	27.9	19.6	W	<u>TU</u>	19.3	H	Health	13.3	P	<u>Pardia</u>
	Norway	LO	54.8	10.7	34.6	28.9	L	Communal	18.5	G	<u>Fellesforbund</u>	7.4	S	Commerce
	Sweden	LO	58.6	15.1	26.3	29.7	L	SKAF	20.3	M	<u>Metall</u>	8.6	P	SEKO
		TCO	60.9	21.9	17.3	29.5	W	SIF	17.3	E	Teachers	14.0	L	Communal
III	Austria	ÖGB	51.1	23.2	25.7	19.9	W	GPA	16.2	P	GÖD	15.0	M	<u>GMT</u>
			70.5	21.4	8.1	26.4	G	CG	23.3	W	SETCA	20.9	P	General
	Belgium <sup>b</sup>	FGTB	46.6	22.4	31.0	17.1	W	LBC	15.5	B+C	<u>B &amp; I</u>	14.0	F	Food
			Germany	DGB	80.8	10.3	8.9	35.5	P+S	<u>Ver.di</u>	34.3	I	IG Metall	10.9
	Netherlands	FNV	81.5	9.9	8.6	39.6	I+S	<u>Bondgenoten</u>	29.4	P	<u>AbvaKabo</u>	12.6	B	Construction
			Switzerland	SNV	65.0	24.8	10.2	25.0	I	<u>Bedrijven</u>	24.0	H	Health	16.0
	Switzerland	SGB	61.0	19.6	19.4	23.8	B	<u>GBI</u>	23.4	M	Metal	13.8	R	Railways
IV	Italy <sup>b</sup>	CGIL	43.0	24.0	32.0	15.6	M	FIOM	15.4	P	Public	13.0	B	FILLEA
			38.8	20.8	40.6	17.0	H+P	<u>FPS</u>	11.3	B	Construction	11.3	A+F	<u>FAI</u>
	Spain <sup>c</sup>	CC.OO	36.9	14.3	45.3	17.0	M	Metal	12.5	T	<u>Transport</u>	10.8	P	Public
			UGT	46.2	19.8	34.0	21.2	P	Public	15.1	M	Metal	10.0	T

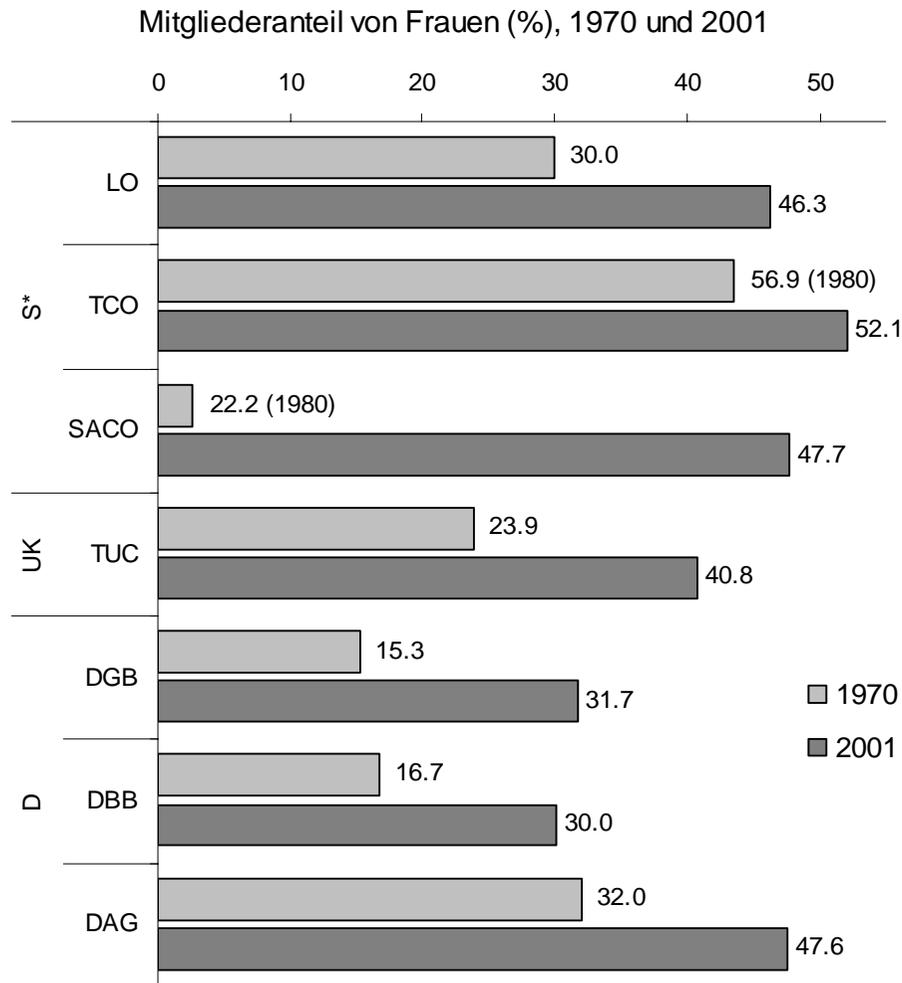
Sources: calculations by author; for sources and methods see Ebbinghaus and Visser (2000) and Ebbinghaus (2003).

Notes: only two largest union confederations (with more than 15-20% overall share); unions: new merged unions (1985-) are underlined.

<sup>a</sup>1998; <sup>b</sup>2000; <sup>c</sup>1997.

(\*) domain: A, agriculture; B, construction; C, chemicals; E, education; F, food; G, general; H, health sector; L, local public sector; M, metal; P, public administration; S, private services; T, transport; W, white-collar.

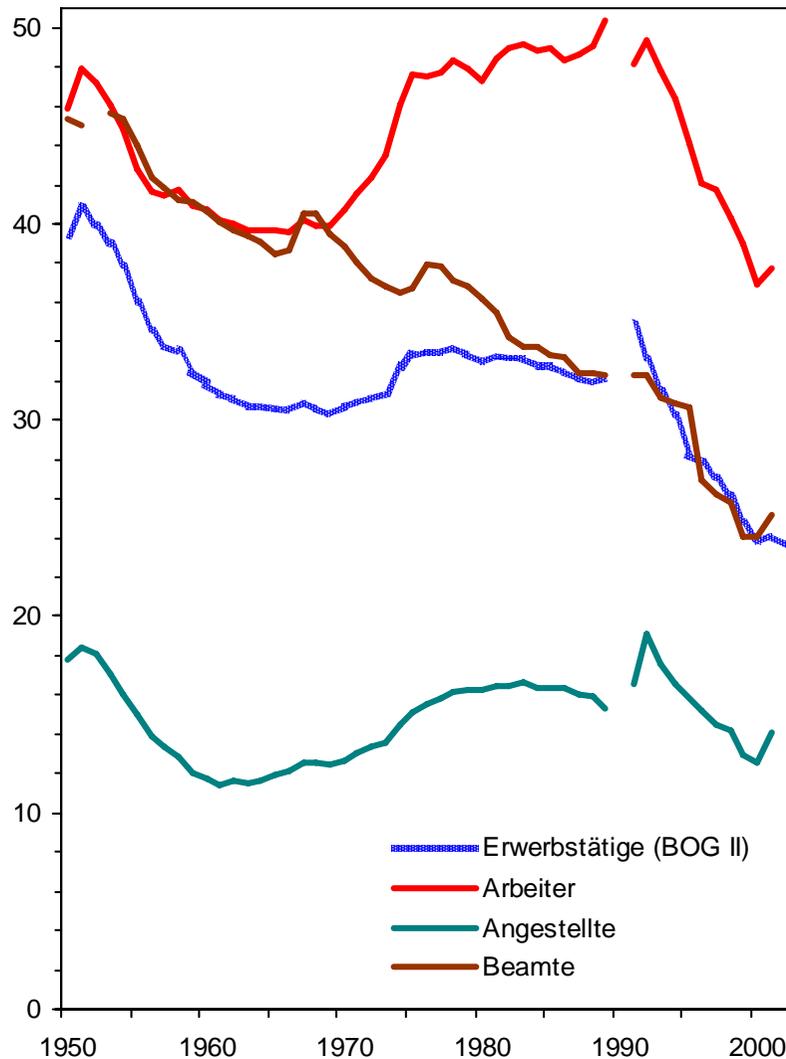
# Repräsentation von Frauen



Quelle: Ebbinghaus & Visser 2000; Ebbinghaus 2003.

- **Mitgliederanteil** als Indikator für Interessenpluralität
- **Zunahme** des Mitgliederanteils:
  - Beschäftigungsexpansion
  - Mitgliederschwund bei Männer (UK) seit 1980er
- **Hoher** Mitgliederanteil:
  - Angestelltenverbände: (S: TCO, S: SACO, D: DAG)
  - Öffentlicher Dienst: (S: TCO, S: SACO, UK: TUC)
- **Repräsentationsdefizit** in D:
  - DGB: Industriegewerkschaften
  - DBB: Beamte eher männlich

# Sozialstruktur und Organisationsgrad



## ☐ Beispiel Deutschland: DGB

- Abnahme seit 1951, dramatischer Rückgang seit 1991
- **Arbeiter**: Zunahme in den 70er Jahren
- **Beamten**: kontinuierlicher Rückgang

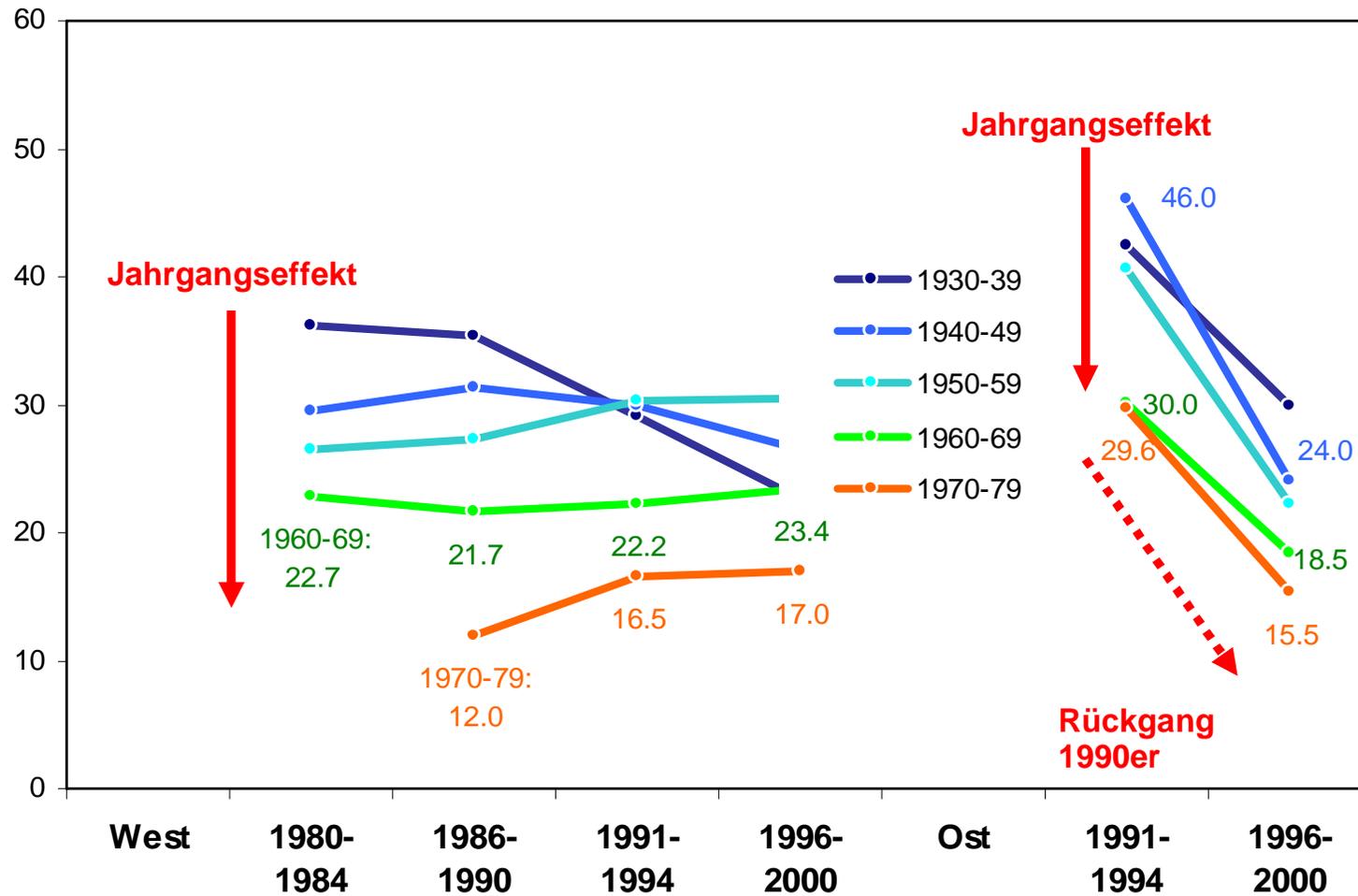
- **Angestellte**: niedriger OG

- Überrepräsentation der Arbeiter:

<u>DGB:</u>		<u>Arbeitsmarkt:</u>
60%	<b>Arbeiter</b>	
	39%	
33%	<b>Angestellte</b>	54%
7%	<b>Beamte</b>	7%

- Deutsche Gewerkschaften spiegeln den Arbeitsmarkt der 60er wider!

# Organisationsgrade von Geburtsjahrgängen, BRD



Quelle: ALLBUS 1980-2000, Mittelwerte über jeweils 3 Umfragen; eigene Berechnungen.

# Fazit: Historisch vergleichende Aggregatdaten

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- **Langfristige** Beobachtung von sozialem Wandel (Pfadabhängigkeit)
- **Historisch vergleichende** Perspektive zur Erklärung von nationalen Unterschieden
- **Spezialstudien** besonders notwendig in Bereichen ungenügender amtlicher Statistik
- **Prozessproduzierte** (administrative) Daten (z.B. Gewerkschaftsberichte, Sozialversicherungsträger) erfordern besonders hohen Aufwand
- Wissenschaftliche Datensammlungen über politische **Inputvariablen** (Parteien, Tarifpartner, soziale Bewegungen)
- Bedarf an systematisch vergleichenden Beschreibungen von **Institutionen** (z.B. Wohlfahrtsregime, Tarifvertragssysteme)
- Herausforderung: **Verbindung** von Makroindikatoren und Mikrodaten
  - Nutzung von Mikrodaten zur Generierung von Makroindikatoren
  - Nutzung von Makroindikatoren zur vergleichenden Mikroanalyse