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This volume is based on a three-year study, undertaken between 1987 and 1990, which involved intensive analysis and cooperation on the part of scholars in five countries. Considerably open-ended at the outset, the study necessitated much collaborative effort to determine a common agenda. My colleagues had to engage in difficult fieldwork and to simultaneously adjust to emerging common frameworks appropriate for a cross-national statement. The completion of two long chapters on each country also subjected the involved scholars to considerable demand for revision of early drafts, which would turn disparate writings into a unified volume. Thus, as editor, I am deeply indebted to the colleagues named as authors of the individual chapters, and to their immediate collaborators and assistants, who did the research and then concentrated their extensive knowledge in the chapters that follow. International collaboration brings special problems not only of conceptualization but also of interpersonal relationships. Due to the ability and willingness of my colleagues, solutions to those problems for the most part were not hard to find.

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