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The Social
Construction
of an Industry
A World of Chemical Fibres

With a Foreword by

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Campus / Westview

This study is concerned with the economy – both as an analysis of its political institutions and of informal collective actions pursued by business. The example taken here is a comparative international branch analysis of the chemical fibre industry, crisis-stricken at a worldwide level. The focus is on the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, and Italy during the time span from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s. In order to collectively deal with successive crises, business over time developed a wide variety of governance modes. However, the presence of these governance modes, illustrated at length and coined “private policy networks”, shows a great deal of variation across the three countries studied. Leading from this point, this book attempts to explain, first, why and under which circumstances policy networks develop; and second, why and how private policy networks contribute to successful industrial restructuring processes.

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