

factors come into play, plus the influence of Marxism-Leninism. But more important is the struggle between Cuba on the one hand, a role model of revolution for Latin America, supporting revolutionary movements, and America on the other hand, preventing establishment of radical governments. The Philippines revolutionary movements also stems from acute poverty among the masses and the oppression of the Marcos government. The legitimate government of Marcos was overthrown when it lost mass support.

The ANC of South Africa and PLO represent special cases of revolutionary movements. Their aim is not to transform the whole social structure but only the political system by giving power to the majority Africans and Palestinians respectively.

The case study of UNITA in Angola highlights an anti-Marxist rebel movement challenging the legitimate Marxist-oriented government. However, it has no revolutionary goals.

The main argument of the authors in their analysis of revolutions in the Third World is that incumbent governments create conditions conducive to revolutions because of their exploitative policies and oppression—but more important the use of force in response to protests and pressure for change by groups in society. In view of mass poverty and misery arising from structural adjustment programmes undertaken by most Third World governments and declining export revenues of the Third World, the potential for revolutionary upheavals are tremendous. Definitely, the authors offer a rich, collective effort on revolution and political change which is of considerable interest to students of politics and political economy.

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Benyamin Chetkow-Yanoov, Social Work Practice: A Systems Approach, The Haworth Press, Inc, New York, 1992, ISBN 1-56024-175-6 (h/b), 1-56024-176-4 (p/b), 149 pp inc index. Price: \$24,95 (h/b), \$14,95 (p/b).

The main purpose of the book is to offer a systems approach as a tool for social work and other helping professionals. Through the use of the systems-based model, Chetkow-Yanoov believes that practitioners have a chance not only to develop sensitivity and an ability to create links, but also to sharpen the understanding of how sub-units interact within a large unit. Further, the author demonstrates how practitioners in the field of social work, equipped with the principles of systems, can influence social policy through various processes. He also provides an opportunity to test the applicability of the systems concept to “*a variety of micro and macro practice situations*”. Unlike other authors, Chetkow-Yanoov presents the

system approach for social work practice in a down-to-earth fashion. He applies the systems and ecological concepts in various situations with ease and clarity. The intention is quite clear: to afford professionals of social work "in need" with some readily available material for use.

The book under discussion consists of eight chapters. The first chapter which is an introduction discusses the system and environment as concepts with various examples. The idea is to familiarise the reader with the necessary concepts and establish a basis for discussion. Chapter Two outlines a system-oriented model of social work, types of systems, various features of the systems and systems change. Chapters Five and Six examine systems analysis of some social work practice as well as a model of conflict resolution. Basically these chapters provide the reader with an understanding of systems, through practical examples of how to analyse a system and a representation of how to resolve a conflict in social work. The last chapter discusses implications of the system approach and provides a conclusion.

The author has written an interesting and useful text on the systems approach. The book is not a pioneering work on the systems approach, but the author makes a unique effort to provide abundant basic concepts and characteristics of systems to prepare the reader for multi-level and multi-environment analyses. The author demonstrates a comprehensive and studious familiarity and understanding of the systems approach. Perhaps the greatest strength of the book are the numerous illustrations in the chapters and exercises after every chapter. This aspect of the book creates an occasion for the author to move from the abstract to the reality level. This aspect also reflects a considerable pedagogical talent and skill.

While Chetkov-Yanoov has done an excellent work of writing such an easy-to-read book on systems approach, a reader well-versed with some background in the systems approach may find the book simplistic. The book would readily find use among students at Diploma and Certificate programmes, and at the pre-entry level to a Bachelor of Social Work. From the many examples provided in the book the author has displayed an abundant knowledge, but the treatment lacks the sophistication and depth for the inquiring mind at a higher level.

In another respect, the author tends to share a similar tendency common among many theorists of the systems theory, who tend to portray the systems approach as an "omnipotent" approach or as a "mega" approach through which all human situations can be resolved. Also that any human problematic situation can easily be disentangled through the use of systems approach. This type of understanding is not only misleading but dangerous especially for budding professionals. The understanding may not only create false confidence in the practitioner who totally believes in this "tool" for practice – but a sense of failure, frustration and disillusionment may immediately follow after a rude realisation that the approach, after all, is not an answer to all human problems.

The book is one of many on the systems approach but has made a definite contribution, which is to be welcomed.

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Gillespie, D F and Glisson, D (eds) (1993) **Quantitative Methods in Social Work: State of the art**, Haworth Press, New York, ISBN: 1-56024-275-2, 228 pp inc index.

One of the outcomes of the National Institute of Mental Health Task Force on Social Work Research is this edited collection of examples of the use of quantitative methods. Initiated by the realisation that only a scattering of social workers carry out research in the field of mental health, the Task Force analysed social work research articles published between 1977 and 1988.

The report found that although the use of advanced analytic techniques was increasing, the research tended to use "...quick, inexpensive and relatively simple research methods", for example, cross-sectional and quasi-experimental designs and samples of convenience. The editors argue that the increase in the more advanced methods needs to be encouraged because they improve the researcher's ability to study complex social problems and interventions while reducing the risk of oversimplification and inferential error. Hence the idea of stimulating further research development through this collection of examples applying advanced methods.

The authors of the papers in this volume assume the reader is familiar with basic research methodology, including descriptive statistics and elementary inferential techniques. The volume focuses on three types of methodological issues: measurement; issues related to the incorporation of non-quantitative variables in quantitative analysis; and issues surrounding the use of quantitative techniques to analyse complex social phenomena. Three papers are devoted to each of these issues.

The measurement of complex and abstract concepts used in social work is addressed by Nugent and Hankins who evaluate Hudson's Generalised Contentment Scale; Kronick and Silver examine different software packages that can be used for content analysis; and Orme and Fickling describe the use of latent variable structural equation modelling. The papers on the analysis of non-qualitative variables using quantitative methods includes a paper on logistic regression by Morrow-Howell and Proctor; the application of log-linear analysis by Combs-Orme; and a presentation of event history analysis by Fraser, Pecora, Popuang and Haapala. Addressing the question of how to model complex social phenomena, Koeske describes moderation effects; while Coulton and Chow analyse interactions using regression techniques; and finally Streeter and Gillespie present an application of network analysis.