ORGANIZATION THEORY AND THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION

Organization Theory and the Multinational Corporation

Edited by

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Contents

<i>List of Tables and Figures</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	viii
<i>Notes on the Contributors</i>	x
1 Introduction and Overview <i>Sumantra Ghoshal and D. Eleanor Westney</i>	1
2 Managing DMNCs: A Search for a New Paradigm <i>Yves Doz and C. K. Prahalad</i>	24
Part I Environment and Organization-Environment Interactions	51
3 Institutionalization Theory and the Multinational Corporation <i>D. Eleanor Westney</i>	53
4 The Multinational Corporation as an Interorganizational Network <i>Sumantra Ghoshal and Christopher Bartlett</i>	77
5 The European Subsidiaries of American Multinationals: An Exercise in Ecological Analysis <i>Jacques Delacroix</i>	105
6 Learning, or the Importance of being Inert: Country Imprinting and International Competition <i>Bruce Kogut</i>	136
Part II Organization Structure and Governance	155
7 Control in Multinational Firms: The Role of Price and Hierarchy <i>Jean-François Hennart</i>	157
8 Information Processing Theory and the Multinational Corporation <i>William Egelhoff</i>	182
9 Assumptions of Hierarchy and Heterarchy, with Applications to the Management of the Multinational Corporation <i>Gunnar Hedlund</i>	211

10	Procedural Justice Theory and the Multinational Corporation <i>W. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne</i>	237
	Part III Organizational Culture and Norms	257
11	The Reproduction of Inertia in Multinational Corporations <i>Martin Kilduff</i>	259
12	The Flow of Culture: Some Notes on Globalization and the Multinational Corporation <i>John Van Maanen and André Laurent</i>	275
	<i>References</i>	313
	<i>Index</i>	342

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

2.1	The relevance of organization theories to DMNC management research	32
4.1	Different contexts of interorganizational interactions	84
5.1	Maximum likelihood estimations	126
6.1	Total and foreign entries in the USA	153
7.1	Employee control modes used in firms	167
7.2	Subunit control modes used in firms	171
7.3	Correlations between centralization scales and strategic and environmental conditions	177
8.1	Location of information-processing capacity in the four elementary MNC structures	197

Figures

2.1	Levels of aggregation and theory development	41
4.1	Organizational units and some of the interlinkages within N.V. Philips	78
4.2	Centrality measures for three different network structures (reproduced from Freeman 1979)	97
5.1	Number of subsidiaries in simultaneous existence, 1903–73	118
5.2	Number of subsidiary foundings, 1903–73	120
5.3	Number of subsidiary disbandings, 1903–73	120
5.4	France and Spain	122
5.5	Germany and the UK	122
5.6	Netherlands and Portugal	123
5.7	Belgium and Austria	123
8.1	The general information-processing approach to organizational design	186
8.2	The structural dimensions of information processing	193
8.3	The process dimensions of MNC information processing	195
8.4	The capacities of information-processing mechanisms	200
10.1	Relations among procedural justice, strategic decision outcomes, high-order attitudes and outcome satisfaction	251

Acknowledgements

This volume had its origins in a panel for the annual meeting of the Academy of International Business in San Diego in October 1988. The Chair of the program, Donald Lessard, had chosen as the meeting's theme the challenge of building a stronger discipline-grounded theory base for future research in the field of international business. At his prodding, the two editors of this volume joined forces with Bill Egelhoff to organize a panel on 'Organization Theory and the Multinational Corporation'. The response from our colleagues persuaded all three of us that the topic warranted further development. We decided to pursue it by bringing together the scholars from the international business field who were working on organizational issues concerning the multinational corporation (MNC) and an equivalent number of organization theorists to explore together the potential contributions each field could make to the other.

We were fortunate to engage the interest of a number of leading contributors to both fields, who joined us at a Workshop on Organization Theory and the Multinational Corporation, held at INSEAD on 1 and 2 September 1989. The contributors to this volume – most but not all of whom are primarily researchers in the international business field – agreed to write papers that explored the potential synergies between the two fields. A number of leading organization theorists agreed to provide advance feedback to the authors and to serve as discussants for the workshop and as a collective resource for the overall project. Most of the time at the workshop itself was spent in small group discussions on the papers, and these discussions provided a further basis for the extensive revisions that produced the work included in this volume.

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The participants in the workshop were virtually unanimous in expressing the hope that it would be followed by further opportunities for dialogue between the two research communities. We hope that this volume represents only the first step in the ongoing process.

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