

value" frontier thesis is extremely problematic, as a number of historians have shown (a useful review of the subsequent literature is given by the editor in footnote nine on page 1965).

A final comment on *Why is There no Socialism* is necessary here. Sombart's ideas are useful in themselves for the reasons given. But what makes this particular edition valuable is the contribution of the editor, C.T. Husbands. Not only is the editing excellent, but his "Introductory Essay" is extremely worthwhile in itself for setting out the key problems concerning the existence of Socialism in the U.S., and supplying the historical context for Sombart's views. His footnotes clarify Sombart's more obscure passages, and tie his arguments to the contemporary literature. Together with the Foreword by Michael Harrington, Husbands' work makes this book valuable reading for those interested in the nature and history of the American political process.

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#### FOOTNOTES

1. Along with Edgar Jaffe, Sombart and Weber were co-editors of the influential *Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik*.
2. This is not meant entirely ironically. Sombart's own political views were ambiguous and fluctuated greatly throughout his life. It is generally argued that at this time he leaned toward socialism, and later grew much more conservative, even to the point of partially accepting fascism in the 1930s. See Husbands' remarks, pp. xv-xvi.
- 3.- Sombart, of course, was writing before the New Deal coalition of FDR, which led to the general identification of working-class interests in America with the Democratic Party. Interestingly, the class distinctions between the two major parties has once again blurred with the resurgence of the Republican Party in recent years. See, for example, Godfrey Hodgson's discussion of the breakdown of what he calls the "liberal consensus" in the Democratic Party in *America in Our Time*, New York: Vintage, 1978.

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