

SUMMARIES

WORKERS IN STATE SOCIALISM: A THEORETICAL GUIDE

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The interpretational approach of extending social history of the working people to mentalities has at its core the interaction between factory environments and systemic macrostructures, the dialectics of political alignment and resistance. The ethics of a spartan life, increased output and political-mindedness in the working place meet with workers' communities of differing levels of consolidation. Conflicts are resolved by coercion, but also by evasive tactics or strategies of negotiation and pacification. The variant enjoying the greatest success is the pacification of the workers by social politics, by offering greater scope for consumption. After the failure of the attempts at reform during the 1960s, this becomes the principal feature of "real socialism" in the GDR and "normalization" in Czechoslovakia.