occasion for a volume rather than a coherent theme.

Viewed primarily as a collection of papers on the general theme of Australian science and technology policy, however, the volume brings together much that is of value particularly for the non-specialist. This includes factual material on the activities of ASTEC, the contribution of R&D to Australia's rural industries and the rationalisation of support measures, the selection of the Cooperative Research Centres and the operations of the National Industry Extension Service (NIES). None of these papers are, however, strongly analytical. This is somewhat disappointing in the case of the paper on the successful joint Commonwealth/State program, NIES whose title promised a critical appraisal. How this program relates to science and technology policy as opposed to industry policy is not discussed and we are left to infer the success of the program from a few statistics on the number of companies assisted, in isolation from any serious discussion of the nature and scale of the problems being addressed.

These deficiencies are however offset by Jenny Stewart's contributions, 'Towards the Clever Federation?' and 'Science, Technology and Industry Policy, Are We in the Race?' She argues that science and technology policy must be integrated with industry policy to be fully effective. If the industry development framework laid down by the Commonwealth is flawed, no amount of cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States will lead to the desired improvement in Australia's industrial performance.

She then argues that there are deficiencies in that framework. In particular, she suggests that to be the 'home base' of a successful international firm is the acme of industrial policy. She concludes by suggesting the structure of Australia's science base together with emerging trends in global production casts some doubt on the strategy of forming alliances with transnational companies to gain access to global markets. A technology policy which made much more thoroughgoing use of domestic procurement, and targeted technology transfer and strategic investment in downstream businesses might offer better long-term prospects. This is a stimulating challenge to the relative passivity of current industry policy and its integration with science and technology policy and is well worth reading.

L.E. Boldeman
Australian National University

The Political Economy of Communications: International and European Dimensions *edited by Kenneth Dyson and Peter Humphreys.* (Routledge, London and New York, 1990), pp.xii+254, $40, ISBN 0-415-03794-8.

The 1980s saw a whole series of changes which affected European broadcasting and telecommunications. Perhaps the most significant has been the convergence of broadcasting telecommunications and information technology. The advent of market-based economics, cheap cable and satellite delivery services, has led countries to encourage innovation by the introduction of competition to previously closed markets. Deregulation has become *de rigeur* alongside the introduction of new communication technologies.

The authors' previous volume, *Broadcasting and New Media Policies in Western Europe*, published in 1988, recognising the growing economic importance of the communications industry to nations, examined the way West European states were responding to the chal-

lenges of the new communications technologies. This companion volume differs from its predecessor by looking at international institutions and to the international dimension of national policies and policy making. In particular, the authors (in the preface) point to four questions which the book attempts to address. What do policy changes within international institutions and at the national level reveal about the political economy of communications? In what ways have the relations between international institutions and states changed under the impact of the communications revolution? What impact has the international dimension had on policies and policy processes at the national level? In what ways has 'high' politics impinged on the international political economy of communications? (p.x).

To answer these questions, the editors have commissioned pieces on international organisations, namely: Intelsat, the International Telecommunications Union and the EEC (two chapters), examining their degree of autonomy and capacity for aggrandizement. There are also four country pieces on Luxembourg, Britain, Germany and France. In these, an attempt is made to look at the relationship between strategy and structure as government ideologies interact with institutions and policy networks in communications policies nationally and internationally. Also considered are the problems of legitimation and their implications for policy development.

The editors argue that broadcasting and telecommunications have been elevated to a 'high politics' of international diplomacy, most notably demonstrated in the chapters on Luxembourg and France. Policy networks have changed to accommodate the emerging international dimension of market and technological change. Policy networks are seen as providing a "context within which policies can be renegotiated more or less informally and harmoniously. In this sense communications policies are not simply a story of new laws on liberalization and their application. They are above all a story of the refashioning of policy networks and the impact of institutional self-interest" (p.230).

Most importantly, it is argued that national governments have some difficult decisions to make in the face of the increasingly complex relationships they endure with other governments, international institutions and multinational companies. Do they, for example, follow the path of attracting capital by implementing deregulatory policies, or do they attempt to back national champions that are prepared to invest in national communications infrastructure? The "facts of interdependence" have influenced the nature of the policy responses in Europe. Policy implementation especially "is increasingly bound up in the internationalized nature of the political economy of communications" (p.241). As a prescription, the editors argue for a neo-pluralist approach for empirical research on public policy, rather than neo-liberal and neo-mercantilist accounts of regulatory change in communications.

Recently, some writers have seen the political science perspective on the communications revolution as the 'official' account and have criticised it as being restricted to a legal-institutional focus. Critics have argued that a narrow agenda has been adopted in which the main question surrounds the relation between national institutions and those at the international levels. In this context, the nation state is the primary point of reference. Whilst there are undoubtedly other complex relationships involved, to eschew the political science perspective so readily is to succumb to the same narrowness the criticism eschews. More interesting is the work - or rather question - of identity and the role that media might play in the cultural constitution of nations.

The Political Economy of Communications is an interesting volume and in particular the role that organisations such as the International Telecommunications Union and Intelsat play in the new media environment. Its main problem is that, like all books on media policy published in the last ten years, the pace of events tends to pass the sell by date very quickly.

Howard Tumber
City University, London