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Single Mothers and the State: The Politics of Care in Sweden and the United States. Cecilia Winkler.

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which equates globalization with the spread of international capitalism. Using this definition, the book discusses the impact of globalization on social conditions in what the authors call the 'advanced' industrial countries and the developing countries. In addition, a chapter is devoted to gender issues and another to international migration. These are followed by a chapter on what is described as 'global social policy'. The book concludes with a discussion of the future of global social policy.

Although the book covers a large subject matter, its narrow economic definition of globalization is a major limitation. This is unfortunate because it ignores the many other ways that increased international integration affects communications, mobility, culture, political initiatives and wider social relationships. Another problem is that the book presents the arguments as if they were new. Some of the chapters, such as the one on social policy in the Global South and on the development of global social policy are blissfully ignorant of the substantial body of literature which had previously addressed these issues. While British writers have only recently begun to promote the idea of forging a global social policy, international agencies such as the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health organization have been actively engaged in this task for decades. Although the book's intention is commendable, it does not succeed in exposing students to the issues in a way that will promote critical thinking and an appreciation of the complexities of the processes that are currently shaping the world.

Cecilia Winkler, *Single Mothers and the State: The Politics of Care in Sweden and the United States*. Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, 2002, \$69.00 hardcover.

Single motherhood is deeply stigmatized in the United States. Although there are several ways in which women can become single mothers, once a woman is parenting alone she faces many challenges including the daunting task of raising of her children on her own. There is little relief for women in this position, fathers often do not assist in the raising of children, the welfare system may decline assistance or become a cycle in which women are trapped with no opportunity for a more promising future. Single mothers in the United States are stretched emotionally, physically

and financially to the breaking point with little to no relief in sight. However, single women in other many countries such as Sweden do not face the same challenges. Indeed, in Sweden single mothers are treated very differently. This book explores the difference in the treatment of single mothers in the two countries.

The view of single motherhood in the two countries is diametrically opposed. Winkler notes that in the United States single motherhood is frequently stigmatized and difficult in the best of circumstances. The view of single motherhood is quite different in Sweden. The task of mothering is seen as a honored occupation rather than a burden to the individual's productivity potential. Concessions are made so that women in Sweden have the opportunity to spend as much time and resources as necessary to raise healthy, adaptive children. The book shows that there is a wide gap in political philosophy when it comes to single parenting in the two countries.

Winkler divides the text into nine chapters which follow each other in a logical way. The book begins with an introduction to the issues associated with single motherhood and then a description of the historical differences in social policies for single mothers in the advanced welfare states is given. The next chapter discusses women's issues in the United States including issues such as reproductive rights, work, illegitimacy and social rights for single mothers. The following several chapters discuss the historical and current state of political affairs regarding single motherhood policy in Sweden. Winkler presents the issues of equality in the workplace, women's economic independence, Neoliberalism and privatization of the family, all as they relate to social conditions in Sweden. The final chapter discusses equality and freedom for solo mothers in both countries. The closing chapter suggests modifications to the discourse of single parenthood in order to soften the social and political climate in the United States.

This book's contents is well presented, the organization is excellent and the authors points are brought across in a salient manner. Winkler examines some of the most difficult issues that have faced women in the last three decades stressing the policies that seem to be working for the betterment of womankind in Sweden. The only criticism that can be made of this text is the stark way material on the two countries is presented in different chap-

ters. Because the two countries share many common features, it may have been preferable if the material had been presented together instead of in separate chapters dealing respectively with the two countries. Nevertheless, this is an excellent book that will make excellent supplemental reading for a special topics course on the family or single parenthood. It would also be beneficial for policy makers and those who work closely with single mothers.

Michael McCally, *Life Support: The Environment and Human Health*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002. \$19.95. papercover.

Human health and the environment are unequivocally linked. As human society continues to grow and develop, its impact on the environment increases. Air and water pollution, radiation, and artificial chemicals in food are daily realities. Research on the human health risks of exposure to pollutants has shown significant negative health impacts associated with these exposures. But, outside of researchers and health professionals focused on studying the links between health and the environment, there is little public understanding of these issues. This book, edited by Michael McCally, attempts to bridge the knowledge gap by offering thorough descriptions of the health effects of environmental pollutants.

The book consists of seventeen chapters covering a range of topics important to understanding humankind's impact on the natural environment and how those impacts affect human health. The most powerful chapter is chapter one, written by the editor. In this chapter the connection between human health and the environment is succinctly described. McCally cautions, "... interactions between poverty, population growth, and environmental degradation impede sustainable economic development and worsen population health." Chapters two through twelve concisely address the issues of air pollution, water quality, global climate change, loss of species and ecosystems, ozone depletion and radiation, and the relationship between cancer and the environment, heavy metal exposure, endocrine disruption, and the body burden of industrial chemicals. Each chapter offers a description of current research in an area and recommendations for courses of action to address the concern.

The next four chapters cover more technical and evaluative