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Review of *The Future of the Welfare State: Social Policy Attitudes and Social Capital in Europe*. Heikki Ervasti, Jorgen Goul Andersen, Torben Fridberg and Kristen Ringdal (Eds.). Reviewed by Larry Nackerud.

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Filipino and Asian immigrants who were a large proportion of agricultural workers, again in California. Given the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, this oversight is striking.

Three Worlds of Relief covers new territory in social welfare history and will interest academics and students in the field. Of particular importance to the social work profession is the author's attention to the role that social workers played in advocating both for progressive legislation and practice, except in the West and Southwest. And prominent New Deal officials, notably Hopkins and Perkins, are acknowledged as social workers who pushed for expansive and inclusive policies, often in the face of opposition from other policy-makers in the Roosevelt administration.

*Marguerite G. Rosenthal, Prof. Emerita, Social Work,
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Heikki Ervasti, Jorgen Goul Andersen, Torben Fridberg and Kristen Ringdal (Eds.). *The Future of the Welfare State: Social Policy Attitudes and Social Capital in Europe*. Edgar Elgar Publishing Limited (2012). \$110.00 (hardcover).

Ervasti, Anderson, Fridberg, and Ringdal, with the help of 11 other authors, have created an edited collection that rightfully deserves a prominent position in the vast body of scholarship focused on the European social welfare state. The editors more than accomplish their stated goal of compiling a book focused on the changing "attitudes to the welfare state of ordinary people in almost thirty European countries" (p. 1).

The book and its 12 chapters are well conceptualized, well structured, and well written. Exemplifying that excellence is Chapter 5, authored by Mare Ainsaar, the Estonian National Coordinator for the European Social Survey. The chapter is a masterfully written piece. Ainsaar's chapter could easily be used to exemplify good writing and rhetorical strategies for any group of faculty or advanced graduate students eager to learn/improve their scholarly writing. Indeed, one of the pleasures of the book is the congruence of presentation in each chapter of a solid introduction, a clear statement of purpose,

a cogent and informative literature review, a depiction of the data analysis plan, tabular and textual results presentation, and a thoughtful discussion/implication of findings section.

The book is truly a rigorous scholarly product and allows the reader to see clearly how each author(s) has chosen to approach their research about changing social welfare state attitudes in Europe. Eleven of the 12 chapters are based on data retrieved from a module, titled "Welfare Attitudes in a Changing Europe," included in the 2008-2009 European Social Survey. The survey mechanism and the character of the module are well delineated in the book—chapters include a thorough description of variables, their development, and examples of actual items from the survey instrument. As well, the book boasts an impressive array of authors (and editors) who are closely affiliated (e.g., national level coordinators) with the European Social Survey.

The book, however, is not for the faint of heart, particularly if a reader would be put off by the reliance in the book on regression models to explain perceived understanding of the variance in the data. I still believe any reader interested in history, theory, and/or research about attitudes focused on the social welfare state in Europe will be well served by reading this book. I have my PhD in social welfare policy, and I learned a lot just from reading the theoretical, literature review and points of conclusion/discussion material included in the book. And this was certainly true both for the European social welfare state, and the social welfare state in other country-level contexts, including the United States. Even the topical areas of the chapters—child care policy and benefits, perceived risks as a function of attitude, immigration and social solidarity, the religious factor in attitude—represent a wealth of opportunity for teaching and learning.

My favorite chapter of the book, Chapter 12, comes last and is authored by one of the four editors of the book, Heikki Ervasti. The chapter is titled, "Who Hates the Welfare State? Criticism of the Welfare State in Europe." The inclusion of the chapter and its focus on helping the reader understand why people in Europe may have disdain for the welfare state exemplifies my major compliment of the entire book. The book is a wonderful example of a conversation carried on by

scholars. And those of us in academia know that the scholarly conversation is carried on by persons who are not always in agreement, but often times in disagreement. Mikael Hjerm and Annette Schnabel, authors of Chapter 9, titled "Social Cohesion and the Welfare State: How Heterogeneity Influences Welfare State Attitudes," exemplify beautifully how a researcher joins such a scholarly conversation. Hjerm and Schnabel state in conclusion of their chapter:

However, this chapter adds to the ongoing debate by arguing that it is not heterogeneity *per se* that influences the acceptance of public policies and thereby their legitimacy, but the subjective feelings of togetherness and communality which can be activated at different levels. Modern welfare institutions are not destabilized by heterogeneity but strengthened by its social cohesion. (p. 186)

Really, the authors of all 12 chapters do not tell the reader what to think but rather invite the reader to join in a scholarly conversation about changing attitudes of the social welfare state, and rightfully include the voices of ordinary people in almost thirty European countries. That is not just good scholarship, but great scholarship.

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Martha C. Nussbaum, *The New Religious Intolerance*. Belknap/Harvard (2012). \$26.95 (hardcover).

Whether it is a single shooter in Norway, ethnic cleansing in Europe, head coverings in France, ethnic violence in Ruanda and seemingly throughout Africa, threats from a Florida media person to "deep fry" the Koran, or an attempt to build a Muslim cultural and worship center near the 9/11 site, intolerance seems to be part of the warp and woof of daily life. Professor Nussbaum's book is among many writings that seek to provide a framework for understanding intolerance (Google lists just under 300,000 entries from a search for "Ethnic and Religious Intolerance in the 21st Century"). Nussbaum, a philosopher, is Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago and is a prolific author, having previously written