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### Book Notes

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## BOOK NOTES

Jon Eivind Kolberg (Ed). *The Study of Welfare State Regimes*. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1992. \$ 42.50 hardcover.

Jon Eivind Kolberg (Ed). *Between Work and Social Citizenship*. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1992. \$ 42.50 hardcover.

Jon Eivind Kolberg (Ed) . *The Welfare State as Employer*. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1992. \$ 42.50 hardcover.

These three books are the result of a major study of the welfare state in the Scandinavian countries. Sponsored by the Nordic Council, the research was undertaken under Kolberg's direction at the University of Bergen in Norway. Universities in the other Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland) also participated in the study and numerous reports, monographs and papers were produced.

The objective of the study was to examine the Scandinavian welfare state as an ideal typical 'advanced' welfare state. It sought also to investigate the extent to which the Scandinavian model differs from other welfare states and to study the links between the economy and social policy. In addition, the study attempted to contribute to the sociology of welfare by attempting to integrate labor market with social policy research, and to enhance the insights of both perspectives.

The three volumes cover a very wide range of issues and make significant contributions at both the empirical and theoretical levels. Their insights are helpful to the study of social policy in both Scandinavia and other industrial countries.

At the empirical level, the books show that the separation of employment issues from issues of social policy hinders a proper appreciation of the functioning of the welfare state. Not only is the welfare state closely integrated with the labor market but it affects the labor market directly by serving as a major employer. At the theoretical level, the books demonstrate the close integration of the economy and the welfare system in advanced industrial societies. While social policy research has paid little attention to the economy, the study reveals the close articulation between the two. The study has also generated several new conceptual notions which are now frequently used in

social policy circles. Through the writings of Esping-Andersen and others, 'labor decommmodification', 'welfare state regimes' and similar terms have entered the vocabulary of social policy research, and have elucidated our understanding of the way welfare and economy linkages operate in the industrial nations.

Helen Bolderson and Deborah Mabbett: *Social Policy and Social Security in Australia, Britain and the USA*. Aldershot, England, Avebury, 1991. \$52.95 hardcover. (Distributed in the United States by Ashgate Publishing Co., Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036).

Research into the social security systems of the industrial nations has long been at the center of international social welfare. Many pioneering studies of the nature, origins and functions of social policy have relied extensively on comparative studies of social security. In recent times, however, relatively little has been published about social security in the international context.

By offering an account of social security policy in Australia, Britain and the United States, Bolderson and Mabbett have made a useful contribution to the literature. Their book attempts to compare the historical emergence of social security in these countries, the different definitions of social security which are used in these societies, the levels of benefits offered and the degree to which the population is covered by these programs. The book reveals the complexities of making major international comparisons but nevertheless provides valuable insights into the way social security meets social needs in the three countries.

Berch Berberoglu. *Political Economy of Development: Development Theory and the Prospect for Change in the Third World*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1992. \$44.50 hardcover; \$14.95 papercover.

The economic and social changes that have taken place in the developing countries of the Third World over the last five decades have been momentous. Berberoglu shows that before the Second World War, when most of these countries were under

European imperial rule, they served primarily as reservoirs of colonial exploitation. With the collapse of global colonial system, these countries asserted their independence and many experienced rapid economic growth and social progress.

Berberoglu points out that Third World governments played a significant role in fostering economic development, and in some countries, the results were spectacular. In others, however, developments have been less than impressive and poverty and deprivation have increased. In all cases, however, the end result has been an increased dependence on the centers of world capitalism. Instead of achieving national autonomy as their leaders had hoped, most developing countries have been increasingly subjected to neo-colonialist forces. The integration of the developing countries into the world capitalist system has not, as many have argued, brought benefits to the population as a whole. Berberoglu argues that authentic development can only take place through the rise of revolutionary movements that create socialist societies able to resist the neo-colonial influences of the capitalist world.

Zsuzsa Ferge and Jon Eivind Kolberg (Eds). *Social Policy in a Changing Europe*. Boulder, CO: Westview, 1992. \$44.50 papercover.

This book contains a selection of papers presented at a meeting hosted by the European Center for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna in 1990. Originally intended to provide a forum for discussing similarities and differences in social policy approaches in the Western and Eastern European countries, the book's focus changed significantly as it became clear that historic events were taking place. Loosely categorized under three headings which deal respectively with the nature of welfare systems in the industrial countries, the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, and the future of social policy in the region, the book contains contributions by leading social policy scholars. Their contributions cover a wide range of critical issues, and offer many important conceptual insights into social policy in Europe and the other industrial societies as well.

Peter Beilharz, Mark Considine and Rob Watts. *Arguing about the Welfare State: The Australian Experience*. Sidney, Allen and Unwin, 1992. \$19.95 papercover. (Distributed in the United States by Paul & Co., P.O. Box 442, Concord, MA 01742).

International and comparative social policy research has conventionally focused on a handful of industrial countries located chiefly in North America and Western Europe. In recent years, the number of countries included in this research has expanded rapidly and detailed studies of the welfare systems of nations as diverse as China, Nigeria, Mexico and Israel are now available.

Although this is not the first book about the Australian welfare state, Beilharz, Considine and Watts have offered a detailed, sophisticated and insightful account. It transcends description and provides an interesting analysis of the key social policy questions facing the country. The authors draw extensively on social theory to frame their discussion, and their historical account of the evolution of the Australian welfare state is both analytical and readable.

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