



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 21
Issue 3 *September*

Article 28

September 1994

***Contemporary Political Ideologies.* Roger Eatwell and Anthony Wright.**

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>



Part of the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation

(1994) "*Contemporary Political Ideologies.* Roger Eatwell and Anthony Wright.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 3 , Article 28.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol21/iss3/28>

This Book Note is brought to you by the Western Michigan University School of Social Work. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



Roger Eatwell and Anthony Wright (Eds). *Contemporary Political Ideologies*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993. \$48.50 hardcover, \$16.95.

This is not the first book to attempt an encyclopedic classification of the major ideologies of Western political thought but it is probably the best. The editors not only offer a comprehensive overview of key Western ideologies such as liberalism, conservatism, democratic socialism and Marxism but discussed ideologies that are usually neglected in the literature. These include three ideologies that are particularly topical today, namely feminism, nationalism and ecologism.

One of the editors, Roger Eatwell has written an excellent introductory chapter that summarizes the definition and theory of ideology. This chapter is informative, well written and particularly helpful to those who require an introductory exposition rather than intricate analysis of this complex field. The chapters on the various ideologies follow a standard pattern and are all highly readable and enlightening. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in knowing more about the role of ideology in shaping attitudes and events in modern societies.

Susan Rose-Ackerman. *Rethinking the Progressive Agenda: The Reform of the American Regulatory State*. New York: Free Press, 1993. \$24.95 hardcover.

From the end of the nineteenth century, the progressive movement has advocated a positive role for government in regulating capitalism, intervening to meet human needs through the provision of public social services, and protecting the population against the negative effects of industrialization. State interventionism became increasingly common during the 20th century, and was only significantly challenged during the 1980s when the doctrines of the Chicago School of law and economics were embraced by the Reagan administration. The Chicago School advocated a massive withdrawal of the state from civil society and believed that the market, if permitted to operate independently of statutory constraint, would of itself promote the general welfare.