faith in what is described as 'people friendly markets' appears to be oblivious of the fact that governments rather than ordinary people have the power to mediate markets and to mitigate their exploitative tendencies. The idea that 'people power' will somehow create viable non-exploitative market systems, and engender prosperity for all is surprisingly ignorant not only of the literature but of decades of development experience in the Third World.

Despite this criticism, the 1993 Human Development Report will be an indispensable resource to social scientists concerned with development questions. Its statistical appendices and county case studies are invaluable and indicative of its breadth and comprehensiveness.


The British welfare state has long been admired by students of social policy for its highly integrated structure, comprehensiveness and centralized managerialism. Indeed, the fact that Britain is often regarded as a prototypical welfare state is attributable not to historical inventiveness but to its universalism and inclusive organizational structure. Now, fifty years after Beveridge formulated a blueprint for the British welfare state, its character is being rapidly altered. Under Mrs. Thatcher and her descendants, the once integrated British welfare state is being trimmed, decentralized, fragmented, privatized and diluted.

This book will make depressing reading for those who have admired the British system and its organizational universalism. Nevertheless, it is essential reading for those who wish to know how the British welfare state is evolving. While American readers will recognize many of the features of the new managerialism, few will welcome it. By bringing together this series of highly informative chapters on the current trend away from statism in Britain, the editors of this book have made a major contribution to the study of comparative social policy.