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The End of Social-Democratic Hegemony

Carly Elizabeth Schall

in *The Rise and Fall of the Miraculous Welfare Machine: Immigration and Social Democracy in Twentieth-Century Sweden*

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This chapter chronicles two clear trends arising from three hotly contested, difficult-to-predict elections during the 2006–2014 period in Sweden. The first of these is a newly stable and consistent support for the center-right which has had material consequences for the way goods are distributed in an increasingly marketized Swedish economy, pushing individual responsibility and freedom of choice over community and solidarity. The second of these is the rise of the anti-immigrant far right, manifested most clearly in the electoral successes of the Sweden Democrats. This success can be seen as an indicator that there is a crisis of closure-as-entry as questions of belonging have become increasingly acute. Increasingly, the left has been concerned primarily with an individualistic “antiracism” over structural concerns about integration, a concern that brings into sharp focus the idea that the welfare state is no longer the machine for integration, even for the left.

Domestic Secrets

Maria Agren

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Between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, women's role in the Swedish economy was renegotiated and reconceptualized. This book chronicles changes in married women's property rights, revealing the story of Swedish women's property as not just a simple narrative of the erosion of legal rights, but a more complex tale of unintended consequences. A public sphere of influence—including the wife's family

and the local community—held sway over spousal property rights throughout most of the seventeenth century, the book argues. Around 1700, a campaign to codify spousal property rights as an *arcanum domesticum*, or domestic secret, aimed to increase efficiency in legal decision making. New regulatory changes indeed reduced familial interference, but they also made families less likely to give land to women. The advent of the print medium ushered property issues back into the public sphere, this time on a national scale, the book explains. Mass politicization increased sympathy for women, and public debate popularized more progressive ideas about the economic contributions of women to marriage, leading to mid-nineteenth-century legal reforms that were more favorable to women.