The territory that makes up modern Australia was first settled by the British as a penal colony in 1788. It was not until the 1880s that changing internal and external conditions provoked widespread support for federalist ideas in Australia. Australia is not a country associated with ‘stateness’ problems. On the contrary, with the minor exception of the symbolic vote for secession in Western Australia in 1933, throughout its history it has been a model of democracy and political stability. In spite of its vast size and great geographic diversity, modern Australia is relatively homogeneous in economic and social terms. The Northern Territory apart, no great spatial disparities in wealth and income exist. In spite of this, Australian politics does have a clear territorial dimension. Australia has been fortunate that its constitutional and institutional arrangements have been adapted in ways that have facilitated the centralization of power in the federal government without at the same time provoking resentment among the peoples of culturally or economically distinctive states.

According to the official English translation of Article 20, para. 1, of the Basic Law, the Federal Republic of Germany is a ‘democratic and social federal state’. A better translation might be ‘a democratic and
federal social welfare state’. ‘Social’ in German usually means socially fair, or just, and generally equal. Therefore, this concept provides a constitutional basis for the German welfare state. How to secure and preserve a highly developed social welfare state with a variety of public services available to all citizens and simultaneously maintain a functioning federal system with autonomous Länder is a question Germans have had to wrestle with since the Basic Law went into effect in 1949. This chapter focuses on the financing of the German federal system and discusses the issue of taxes in the drafting of the Basic Law, the finance reforms of 1955 and 1969, basic principles of German fiscal federalism, fiscal equalisation within the Länder, German unification and the Solidarity Pact of 1993, other federal grants to the Länder and the issue of Länder consolidation.

Changing Directions
Michael Veseth

in Mountains of Debt: Crisis and Change in Renaissance Florence, Postwar Britain, and Postwar America

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It is one thing to identify the problem of the saddle point and point out the need for policies to move the economy in a new direction. It is another thing actually to conceive of policies that might realistically alter the economy's course. Finally, it is a very hard thing to overcome the forces of institutional momentum and actually implement these policies. However, this chapter concludes with a proposal that might well set the United States on a better path as it heads toward the future. It offers one plan with some hope of shifting the economy's momentum without thoroughly distorting private sector incentives or resorting to a heavy-handed and ultimately unsuccessful layer of coercive government controls. The Saddle Point Plan has three main parts: income tax reform, deficit reduction, and a major new program of federal grants to state and local governments for education and training programs.
Since 2006, the psychology of science has become an established discipline. The year 2006 saw the first international conference, from which the International Society for the Psychology of Science and Technology was launched. The following year, the first peer-reviewed journal was started, the Journal of Psychology of Science and Technology. The society and journal are still relatively small and young. The question arises, where next? To survive and thrive, graduate training programs, federally funded grants, research centers, undergraduate and graduate courses, and degrees are needed. The society has been working on proposals for training grants and other graduate-student-oriented initiatives, such as awards and scholarships for the best research projects on the psychology of science. This chapter reviews the history of the field and describes some of the initiatives being undertaken to ensure its healthy maturation in the future.
are considered—from poor students, who may struggle with applications and with deciding whether to continue on to college, to high-aptitude students who are offered “free rides” at elite schools. The book utilizes the best methods and latest data to analyze the college decision-making process, while explaining how changes in aid and admissions practices inform those decisions as well.