Welfare state reform and restructuring
Jochen Clasen

in Reforming European Welfare States: Germany and the United Kingdom Compared
Published in print: 2005 Published Online: February 2006
Item type: chapter

The chapter puts the book into the context of the contemporary discussion on welfare state reform, and reflects on major concepts and guiding notions, such as retrenchment, re-calibration, and restructuring. It argues in favour of a robust conceptualisation and operationalisation of the ‘dependent variable’, combining both quantitative parameters, such as social spending, with qualitative ‘social rights’ indicators. Furthermore, the chapter underlines the interest both in capturing changes in policy direction (expansion or retrenchment) as well as in assessing policy profiles or patterns of change.

Introduction
Jochen Clasen

in Reforming European Welfare States: Germany and the United Kingdom Compared
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This introductory chapter reflects on the need for in-depth historically sensitive research on the development of advanced welfare states. Contrasting the diverging trends and social and economic fortunes in the UK and Germany since the late 1970s, it argues that the two countries have all but undergone a role reversal in terms of their efficiency and sustainability as models of modern social capitalism. The chapter introduces the aims of the book, i.e. empirical investigation into, and causes for, the development of three major social policy domains in
the two countries over the past 25 years or so. In order to comprehend similarities and diverging trends, multi-causal accounts at programme level are required.

Liberal Welfare States and Immigrants’ Social Rights

Diane Sainsbury

in Welfare States and Immigrant Rights: The Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: January 2013
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Item type: chapter

This chapter deals with the two liberal regime countries — the US and the UK — and how the defining properties of the liberal welfare regime, such as heavy reliance on means tested benefits and market solutions, have influenced immigrants' social rights. The chapter begins with the USA, which has been regarded as the prototype of the liberal welfare regime, and then moves to the UK. For each country, the basic features of social provision, the nature of the incorporation regime, and the broad contours of immigration are discussed. Then formal inclusion of immigrants in social provision, the impact of retrenchment, welfare state restructuring, and changes in the incorporation regime on immigrants' social rights are examined. The chapter concludes with a comparison of the two countries' welfare regimes and incorporation regimes, emphasizing how similarities and differences affect immigrants' social rights.

Conservative Corporatist Welfare States and Immigrants’ Social Rights

Diane Sainsbury

in Welfare States and Immigrant Rights: The Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion

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Item type: chapter

Chapter 4 discusses the two conservative corporatist countries — Germany and France — and the impact of welfare regime attributes, such as work performance and contribution requirements, on immigrants' social rights. The chapter examines immigrants' formal inclusion and access to benefits, and how retrenchment, welfare state restructuring and changes in the incorporation regime have affected immigrants' social rights. In the German case the incorporation regime has been very important because until recently it differentiated between co-ethnic
immigrants and foreigners. The concluding discussion compares the German and French welfare and incorporation regimes and their impact on immigrant rights. It also offers an assessment of the proposition that Germany and France are exemplars of contrasting models of citizenship and incorporation in light of policy developments during the past two decades.

Financialization and the Welfare State
Adam D. Dixon

in The New Geography of Capitalism: Firms, Finance, and Society
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Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199668236.003.0005

This chapter considers the implications of the changing geography of capitalism for the nation-state’s role in social protection, particularly in the area of public pensions. The chapter provides a brief history of the development of the welfare state, noting how it emerged under particular historical-geographical conditions, which no longer hold good. As national economies struggle to navigate and capture sufficient value from the new geography of production, retirement-income security has become increasingly dependent on the performance of financial markets. If welfare states have yet to converge on institutional form, this shift toward pre-funding pensions has resulted in increasing functional equivalence across different institutional environments. Hence, the restructuring of the welfare state toward a reliance on global financial markets, and the interdependence this brings, adds another element eroding the distinctive political-economic foundations of particular national economies. The chapter explores this shift in policy through the case of France.

Improving Poverty Reduction
Stijn Oosterlynck, Andreas Novy, Yuri Kazepov, Pieter Cools, Tatiana Saruis, Bernhard Leubolt, and Florian Wukovitsch

in Decent Incomes for All: Improving Policies in Europe
Published in print: 2019 Published Online: December 2018
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780190849696.003.0009

This chapter discusses the potential of social innovations as effective policies and actions to reduce poverty. Social innovations are driven by
an unconventional mix of actors and apply multidimensional approaches to respond to social needs that are not adequately met by macro-level welfare policies. The chapter first gives a brief overview of the history of social innovation as an academic concept and an important concept in current European policies to combat poverty. It then turns to the implications of adopting a social innovation perspective for our understanding of poverty. We stress the multidimensional and relational character of poverty, highlight the importance of place-based developments and their multilevel governances, and point out the crucial role of participation and empowerment. Finally, we present preliminary lessons for anti-poverty strategies based on our extensive case-study analysis, stressing the important link to broader strategies to foster social cohesion, the value of bottom-linked approaches, and the importance of collective empowerment.