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Social and Secure?
Politics and Culture of the Welfare State: A Comparative Inquiry

This volume offers a comparative and multi-disciplinary inquiry into the welfare state settings of the Netherlands, the United States, and Canada. Introductory chapters define the terms and present sociological reflections on the welfare state. Subsequent sections explore the different historical trajectories of the welfare state in the three countries; the literary and filmic renderings of life and culture in the welfare state; and recent welfare politics, including policies, covert motives, and emerging trends.

In twenty-five essays historians, sociologists, policy makers, literary scholars and film critics document the interactions and the differences between the three welfare systems. Their focus is on the United States, where recent developments have commanded the attention of European decision makers. Their conclusion is that living in a welfare state need not be social nor secure, and therefore warrants critical reflection.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The essays in this volume were first presented at the annual conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association in the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, on June 6-8, 1995. Sixty-five scholars from the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Denmark gathered to compare the history, workings, and effects of the welfare states in these countries. All but one of the papers are published here.

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The editors