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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.

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The editors