

Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism: A Century of Income Security Politics.
(Cornell University Press, 1999). Cloth and Paper.

Alexander Hicks, Emory University

Winner, 2000 Luebbert Award (prize of comparative politics section of the American Political Science Association for the best book on comparative politics published in 1998-1999).

What has brought about the widespread public provision of welfare and income security within free-market liberalism? Some social scientists have regarded welfare as a preindustrial atavism; others, as a functional requirement of industrial society. Most recently, scholars have stressed the reformist actions of center-left parties during the decades following World War II, the workings of "new" post-industrial politics lately, and a multifaceted role of politics and state institutions overall. Alexander Hicks thoroughly revises these views, stressing the enduring significance of class organizations, however politically embedded, from the era of Bismark until the present. *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism* describes and explains income security programs in affluent and democratic capitalist nations, from the proto-democratic innovators of the 1880s to the globally buffeted democracies of the 1990s. Hicks's account stresses the reformist role of employee political and economic organization and derivative institutions, in particular, social democratic parties, labor unions, and neo-corporatist arrangements. These forces, arrayed as the elements of a transnational and century-long social democratic movement, give direction and continuity to the emergence, development, and contestation of income security policies.

Puff:

"*Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism* offers a wonderful analytic history of income transfer programs throughout the 20th century. . . . I cannot think of a better treatment of the subject." – Geoffrey Garrett, Yale University

"The book is essential reading for all those interested in the past or future of welfare states." – Michael Mann, UCLA

"Alexander Hicks, a leading figure in contemporary welfare state research, has with this book provided a new benchmark for comparative political economy. *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism* is a tour de force of political history and state-of-the-art quantitative comparison.... This is one of those books that sets the standards of exemplary analysis for years to come." – Gosta Esping-Andersen, Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Reviews:

"In the last century many states have been transformed into welfare states. In the last generation research on comparative social policy has split these pretty great transformations into almost equal spheres of scholarly influence.... In his prodigious *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism*, Alexander Hicks breaks through these barriers... . What is remarkable is that Hicks speaks forcefully to so many different debates about social policy—with an innovative argument about the evolving impact of social democracy over the last century, formal techniques, and historical sophistication. *Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism* is required reading for both historical and quantitative scholars of social policy and others hoping to understand the transformation of states into welfare states over the last century."

Edwin Amenta, *Contemporary Sociology*, July, 2001

"Alexander Hicks has written one of the most important works in the past thirty years on the development of income security policies in democratic capitalist states. (Hicks equates income security policies with 'welfare states'—"Literature on the causes of income security policy, and, thus, welfare states, bifurcates" p. 15, and elsewhere—a point I will revisit later.) If this were not sufficient, the book also is the most significant comparative public policy study I have read. Based on years of reflection, scholarship and teaching, it covers, not merely cites, a wide range of literatures. It is extremely sensitive to particular historical experiences. It is theoretically informed. Most impressively, it is methodologically sophisticated and imaginative. And the book is concise and well written. In short, it is a model of what exciting comparative research can be." Norman Furniss, *American Political Science Review* (August 2002)

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