

German Social Policy

Edited and introduced by **Lutz Leisering**



Economics



F.-X. Kaufmann, Bonn, Germany

Thinking About Social Policy

The German Tradition

The book traces the political history of the concept of social policy. „Social policy“ originated in Germany in the mid 19th century as a scholarly term that made a career in politics. The term became more prominent only after World War II. Kaufmann, the doyen of the sociology of social policy in Germany, argues that „social policy“ responds to the modern disjunction between “state” and “society” diagnosed by the German philosopher Hegel. Hegel’s disciple Lorenz von Stein saw social policy as a means to pacify the capitalist class conflict. After World War II, social policy expanded in an unprecedented way, changing its character in the process. Social policy turned from class[...]

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F.-X. Kaufmann, Bonn, Germany

Variations of the Welfare State

Great Britain, Sweden, France and Germany Between Capitalism and Socialism

In the burgeoning literature on welfare regimes and typologies, this comparative study offers a stimulating new perspective. Kaufmann, the doyen of the sociology of social policy in Germany, emphasizes norms, culture and history, in contrast to political economy

approaches. Comparing Britain, Sweden, France and Germany, Kaufmann highlights the „idiosyncrasy“ of each welfare state: countries are compared with regard to their state traditions and the relationship between state and civil society; their national “social questions”; their economic systems, including the unions and labour law; social security and redistribution; and their personal social services and education. The[...]

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M.G. Schmidt, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany; G.A. Ritter, Berlin, Germany

The Rise and Fall of a Socialist Welfare State

The German Democratic Republic (1949-1990) and German Unification (1989-1994)

This book provides a comprehensive analysis of social policy in the German Democratic Republic (GDR, 1949-1990), followed by an analysis of the “Social Union”, the transformation of social policy in the process of German unification in 1990. Schmidt’s analysis of the GDR also depicts commonalities and differences between the welfare state in East and West Germany as well as in other East European and Western countries. He concludes that the GDR was unable to cope with the trade-off between ambitious social policy goals and a deteriorating economic performance. Ritter embeds his analysis of the Social Union in a general study of German unification, its international circumstances and[...]

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M. Stolleis, Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Origins of the German Welfare State

Social Policy in Germany to 1945

This book traces the origins of the German welfare state. The author, formerly director at the Max-Planck-Institute for European Legal History, Frankfurt, provides a perceptive overview of the history of social security and social welfare in Germany from early modern times to the end of World War II, including Bismarck’s pioneering introduction of social insurance in the 1880s. The author unravels “layers” of social security that have piled up in the course of history and, so he argues, still linger in the present-day welfare state. The account begins with the first efforts by public authorities to regulate poverty and then proceeds to the “social question” that arose during the[...]

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H.F. Zacher, Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Sozialrecht, Munich, Germany

Social Policy in the Federal Republic of Germany

The Constitution of the Social

This book investigates the history of the post-war welfare state in Germany and its normative foundations, with special emphasis on constitutional issues. The author, formerly Director of the Max-Planck-

Institute for Foreign and International Social Law, Munich, and President of the Max-Planck-Society, argues that social policy – not only in Germany – is about struggles over the “social”. The “social” is an open and changing concept that reflects the modern quest for equality, voiced in semantics like justice, participation, inclusion and security. The “social” and the “social state” (the German term for welfare state) are enshrined in the German Constitution of 1949, the Grundgesetz.[...]

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