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Access Details: [subscription number 731751790]

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954

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West European Politics

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smp/title~content=t713395181>

Book reviews

To cite this Article: 'Book reviews', West European Politics, 28:5, 1117 - 1140

To link to this article: DOI: 10.1080/01402380500311970

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01402380500311970>

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welfare state, an overview of the OECD's recommendations over time as well as a brief discussion of national policy developments and the use of the OECD as a reference point. The national side of this multilateral procedure could have deserved a more extensive discussion and analysis in order to assess in what ways, if any, the OECD is being used in national policy discourse. In addition, it would have been valuable to learn more about the way national states approach the OECD processes.

This would possibly have required another book. Given the absence of a systematic collection across states and sectors of the way in which the OECD issues recommendations, this book is a very important contribution. It will form an important reference point for any further investigation into multilateral surveillance processes that rely on benchmarking and peer-review.

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Euros and Europeans. Monetary Integration and the European Model of Society

Andrew Martin and George Ross (Eds)

Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004, 358 pp., £18.99, ISBN 0-521-54363-0 (pbk), £40, ISBN 0-521-83570-4 (hbk)

This long-awaited book explores the link between monetary integration and broader societal policies. As is often forgotten, EMU does not stand for 'European' Monetary Union but for 'Economic' and Monetary Union. That particular 'E' is included for good reason; it represents the link between the economic and monetary aspects of the creation of a single currency. 'What might this economic dimension be', one might ask. In simple terms it is the completed single market and capital mobility. But beyond that, a true economic union could well venture into other domains, such as more supranational common welfare state provisions (pensions, healthcare, unemployment benefit provisions, and so on). For an economic union to work properly it might be necessary to centralise these policies. If not, one should perhaps harmonise them or expect competition in this domain.

The link between the 'E' and the 'MU' has been a concern ever since monetary unification was first conceptualised in the late 1960s in the Barre Reports and a few years later in the Werner Report. Martin and Ross's pioneering book is the first to put together a team of researchers who explore this very relationship in an attractive fashion. The link started to be disputed in the late 1980s, as it was felt that there was no need to create more economic collaboration at the supranational level. Yet having a good mix between monetary and fiscal policies is what ultimately makes an economy work well. Thus it was seen as highly likely that when monetary policy is centralised and in the hands of a very independent central bank (focused particularly on price stability), and budgetary policies are restricted through rules on budgetary deficits and public debt, countries would try to create favourable economic conditions by embarking on 'tax competition', 'social dumping' and lowering wages. *Euros and Europeans* examines these generally held fears and asks whether EMU threatens what is labelled in this book as the 'European Model of Society'.

The biggest problem the book has, of course, is to define this very notion of the European Model of Society (EMoS). Clearly there is no single model. In fact, Martin and Ross's definition on page 11 is very broad indeed. '[The EMoS] refers to the institutional arrangements comprising the welfare state (transfer payments, collective social services, their financing) and the employment relations system (labor law, unions, collective bargaining). . . . [It] refers to ideal-types.' The problem the editors have had to struggle with is that if one looks at the European model in a comparative sense (i.e. various EU national European Model of Societies) they are about as

diverse among the EU-15 as they are in the Western world at large (including countries such as Australia, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the United States, etc.). Welfare states are not developed in Greece, Spain and Italy and collective bargaining in the United Kingdom is not the same thing as in Germany. Yet the editors have managed to distil from this diversity the core issues at stake. The EU member states have a strong belief that 'society' should be at the core of the European integration process. On the road to further integration (including EMU) the EU should not start to resemble the United States insofar as these issues are concerned.

The editors dealt with the problem of a weak definition of the core concept by having the book deal with a variety of countries as well as offering various overview chapters. The country chapters highlight these effects of EMU on the changes in collective bargaining/industrial relations and on welfare state issues. In this sense the book resembles somewhat the work by Scharpf and Schmidt on welfare states and by Dyson on the effect of EMU on member states. Yet, what is different is the fact that the authors are keen to examine if EMU has undermined these specific relationships in society and whether member states have the room for manoeuvre to maintain their distinct European models of societies. Overall the findings are that EMU did not in any revolutionary fashion affect the member states.

Some chapters that offer particularly insightful new accounts are, for example, Jos de Beus's reflection on the rise and fall of the Dutch Polder model and what can be learnt from it for other member states. Alberta Sbragia's chapter makes the EU-US comparison that is so often lacking in these kinds of volumes with the US implicitly in the background. Philippe Pochet looks at EMU and federalism, which is attractive since, as said, there is an implicit assumption underlying this study that somehow these issues are indeed related to broader question of federal governance.

Overall the book is very informative on these issues of EMU and related policy areas. But I remain not fully convinced that it makes the analytical case for what an EMoS is, and how *EMU* as a causal factor produces change in welfare states and employment relations. Maybe this problem is the background for why, to date, so little has been published on this topic. It is an interesting, indeed fascinating,

more broadly, European integration, globalisation, the shift to neo-liberal policies, etc.).

Nevertheless, *Euro and Europeans* is a fascinating and pioneering study of how EMU has impacted on, and might further change, welfare states and labour relations in the EU. It is likely to make an important contribution to the literature on European integration.

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European Union Enlargement. A Comparative History

Wolfram Kaiser and Jürgen Elvert (Eds)

Routledge, London, 2004, 272 pp., £70, ISBN 0-415-33137-4 (hbk)

Studies of EU enlargement have been mushrooming in recent years but, with a few exceptions, they have analysed the accession of Central and Eastern European countries to the Union. In contrast, the volume edited by Wolfram Kaiser and Jürgen Elvert focuses entirely on the past enlargement rounds. Nine chapters, written by scholars from the respective countries, deal with the accession of all new member states that turned the EC-6 into the EU-15 between 1973 and 1995. Each chapter asks why the country was not part of the EC-6 and why it joined later. To answer these questions, the authors describe the interplay of a multitude of international and