
WELFARE STATE TRANSFORMATIONS AND ADAPTATIONS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
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Alfio Cerami
Associate Researcher
Centre d'études européennes
Sciences Po
117 Boulevard St. Germain
75006 Paris, France
Homepage: <http://www.policy-evaluation.org/cerami/>
Email : alfio.cerami@policy-evaluation.org

ABSTRACT AND SYNOPSIS OF THE BOOK

Tearing up the *Iron Curtain* has led to ongoing processes of institutional transformation and adaptation in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). By adopting a novel theoretical approach to study the systemic transformation taking place, *Welfare State Transformations and Adaptations in Central and Eastern Europe* provides new in-depth insights into these processes. The authors of this book acknowledges the merits of path-dependency and new-institutionalist explanations, but go beyond simple historical or institutions-centred descriptions so far based on *locked-in* processes. These welfare states now change, and they are analyzed in the book in terms of *path-dependency* and *path-departure*. Therefore, this book discusses not only the *specific social security culture* of a nation, but also new and competing *social security ideas* and *discourses*, as well as those endogenous and exogenous factors that are able to influence the contemporary social policy reform processes in CEE. On the empirical side, leading experts in the field cover a broad spectrum of country and social policy areas. These experts are drawn at both, senior and junior academic level from a large set of different European and American universities. Their skill in dealing with messy data made it possible to identify the main challenges that current Central and Eastern European welfare states are facing today.

For easy accessibility, the book has been divided into three main parts. Part I focuses on *the historical developments of Central and Eastern European social policy* (Dorottya Szikra/Béla Tomka), on *mechanisms of institutional change* (Alfio Cerami) as well as on *power politics and CEE social policy* (Pieter Vanhuysse). Part II is dedicated to country studies. These include the *Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia* (Tomasz Inglot), *Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania* (Jolanta Aidukaite), *Bulgaria* (Bogdanov and Zahariev) and

Romania (Simona Stanescu). Part III concerns a sectoral analysis of specific social policy areas and associated challenges. The chapters in this part include *pensions and international organizations* (Mitchell Orenstein), *health and long-term care* (August Österle), *minimum income schemes* (Cristina Rat), *devolution of social security arrangements* (Natascha van Mechelen and Veerle De Maerschalck), and *the impact of the EU social inclusion strategy* (Tomas Sirovátka and Miroslava Rákoczyová). By providing more solid conceptual explanations and sound empirical evidence, *Welfare State Transformations and Adaptations in Central and Eastern Europe* gives us more comprehensive framework that hitherto available.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

PART I: Theoretical Background

- Historical Developments of CEE Social Policy: Dorottya Szikra/Béla Tomka
- Mechanisms of Institutional Change in Central and Eastern European Welfare State: Alfio Cerami
- Power Politics and CEE Social Policy: Pieter Vanhuysse

PART II: Country Studies

- Czech Rep., Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia: Tomasz Ingot
- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: Jolanta Aidukaite
- Bulgaria: George Bogdanov; Boyan Zahariev
- Romania: Simona Stanescu

PART III: Sectoral Analysis and Challenges

- Pensions and International Organizations: Mitchell Orenstein
- Health Care/Long-Term Care: August Österle
- Minimum Income Schemes: Cristina Rat
- Devolution of Social Security Arrangements: Natascha van Mechelen/Veerle De Maerschalck
- The Impact of the EU Social Inclusion Strategy: Tomas Sirovátka/Miroslava Rákoczyová

Conclusions

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Alfio Cerami (Dr) is associate researcher at the Centre d'etudes européennes of Sciences Po, Paris, France.

August Österle (Prof.) is professor of social policy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Austria.

Béla Tomka (Prof.) is Associate Professor of Modern Economic and Social History, Department of History, University of Szeged, Hungary.

Boyan Zahariev is national consultant in Bulgaria for the DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities.

Cristina Rat (MA) is a PhD. student at the Sociology Department, Babes-Bolyai University Cluj, Romania.

Dorottya Szikra (Prof.) is associate professor at the Department of Social Work and Social Policy, ELTE University of Budapest, Hungary.

Frank Ettrich (Prof.) is professor of social structure analysis at the Faculty of the Sciences of State, University of Erfurt, Germany. **PARTICIPATION CANCELLED**

George Bogdanov is national consultant in Bulgaria for the DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities.

Jolanta Aidukaite (Dr) is researcher at the University College of South Stockholm, Sweden.

Miroslava Rákoczyová (Dr) is researcher at the Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs Prague, Research Centre in Brno, Czech Rep.

Mitchell A. Orenstein (Prof.) is S. Richard Hirsch Associate Professor of European Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University of Washington D.C., USA.

Natascha van Mechelen (Dr) is researcher at the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Pieter Vanhuyse (Dr) is lecturer at the Education Department, School of Political Science University of Haifa, Israel.

Simona Stanescu (Dr) is researcher at the Research Institute for Quality of Life / Romanian Academy, Romania.

Tomas Sirovátka (Prof.) is professor at the Department of Social Policy and Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University Masaryk Brno, Czech Rep.

Tomasz Ingot (Prof.) is Professor, and Director of the International Relations Program, Department of Political Science, Minnesota State University, USA.

Veerle De Maerschalck (Dr) is researcher at the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp, Belgium.