
BOOK REVIEW / CRITIQUE DE LIVRE

Diane Sainsbury. (2012). *Welfare States and Immigrant Rights: The Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. ix, 327; ISBN: 9780199654772

This book describes the evolution of immigrants' social rights and their economic and social inclusion throughout the post-war period in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, and Denmark. Using the Esping-Andersen's welfare regime typology, the author divides these six countries into three sets of regimes: liberal (United States, United Kingdom), conservative corporatist (Germany, France) and social democratic (Sweden and Denmark). The main purpose of this study is to confer the policy formation of welfare states in regards to the social rights of the immigrants, and to point out the politics behind the progression of these social policies. The author criticizes the policy makers for focusing only on the impact of immigrants on the welfare states in terms of how well immigrants of different racial backgrounds are integrated in the society.

The book has two parts. In the first part she talks about the policies of the six welfare states towards immigrants' social inclusion and exclusion, and compares the expansion and contraction of the social rights of immigrants over the postwar era. She investigates the formal and substantive rights of immigrants, and also compares the immigrants' social rights with the citizens of these states. In the second part the author switches to the politics of policy reforms in regards to the immigrants' extension and contraction of rights. She looks at the political processes in the six countries and the politics behind the policy formation for the social rights of immigrants in each country. The author defines the immigrants' social rights by cross examining the boundaries between social policies and immigration policies of the welfare states.

By applying the Esping-Andersen model in this study, each welfare regime appeared to have different impact on the social rights of immigrants. The liberal regime focuses on the needs of the poor and their primary objective is to alleviate poverty. The conservative regime focuses on the 'earners' based on their work as the regime's objective is to maintain their income. The social democratic regime covers all the citizens and residents while their objective is equality and income maintenance. The study reveals that despite the fact the liberal regime focuses on poor, the immigrants are most likely to remain in poverty because of the distribution of resources being restricted only to one segment of the society. On the other hand, the targeted working group is large but the poverty does not seem to be eliminated in conservative corporatist regime. The social democratic regime covers the whole population where the immigrants are less likely to be seen in the state of poverty because of equal treatment by the states.

The author extensively highlights the issues of social, political and economic rights of the immigrants and investigates how welfare states are taking these issues into consideration as one of their main concerns. The social rights of immigrants are now being widely discussed in the world politics. The book contributes to this debate. Missing in the book are regimes from central Europe, Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE) and East Asia (Taiwan and Japan). These regions contain the large number of foreign workers and many are facing issues of inequality. Sainsbury builds a strong argument around the impact of welfare state policies on social rights of the immigrants and stresses that more focus needs to be placed on this neglected issue. This book is an excellent piece of work for the researchers, policy makers, students of immigration studies, sociology and political science.

By Syed Asad Ali Shah
University of Saskatchewan