



# The Changing Welfare State in Europe: The Implications for Democracy

By David G. Mayes, Anna Michalski

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*'The financial sustainability of the welfare state, its efficiency in covering new risks and to effectively reallocate resources in a fair way are now classic issues for debate. This book explores the more understated question of the democratic legitimacy of a 'quasi' European policy in a field which is subjected to the contradictory impact of ever tighter European economic governance. With the wide vision of a comparative perspective and the deep knowledge of social policy scholars, the authors of this book offer inspiring insights into different facets of democratic governance which are likely to inform European decision makers in the coming decade.'*

- Agnes Hubert, member of the Bureau for European Policy Advisors - European Commission

The welfare state in Europe has been reformed gradually over the past two decades, with the intensification of the economic and monetary union and the addition of fifteen new members to the EU. This book explores the pressures that have been placed on the welfare state through a variety of insightful and thought-provoking contributions.

As the standard of living has increased, aspirations and financial constraints have required major rethinking. There is considerable disparity between European countries in how they approach the welfare system, with differing concern over aspects such as income, employment and the ability to participate in society. Choices over welfare lie at the heart of the democratic system; this book explores the tensions this has produced and the innovative responses in policy content and institutions.

*The Changing Welfare State in Europe* has a wide appeal, which will have relevance to economists, scholars in public and social policy, public and private finance experts, policymakers and also academics with an interest in the impact of financial and economic development.

**Contributors:** T. Altman, C. Cheyne, K. Lyons, D.G. Mayes, A. Michalski, Z. Mustaffa, C. Shore, M. Thomson

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#### Review

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'This volume should find a good readership among economists, scholars in public and social policy and private finance experts and indeed anyone who seeks to engage with the increasing clamour between sceptics, phobes and enthusiasts which will absorb us all in the next few years.' -- Derek Hawes, Journal of Contemporary European Studies

#### About the Author

Edited by **David G. Mayes**, Professor of Banking and Financial Institutions, Director, Europe Institute and Director, NZ Governance Centre, University of Auckland, New Zealand and **Anna Michalski**, Associate Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden and Research Fellow, Europe Institute, University of Auckland, New Zealand

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