

**Paternalism and Development:
Expanding the Analysis of Welfare Regimes in Southern Europe and Asia**

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Abstract

In recent years, the scope of welfare state regime analysis—originally focused on advanced, industrialized Western countries—has expanded to include less-studied European regions (such as Southern Europe), as well as newly industrialized and developing countries in Asia. Though many economic, political, and cultural differences exist between Southern Europe and Asia, the socio-cultural norms in both areas rest on paternalist foundations. The question remains as to whether this has exerted similar effects on the welfare regimes and social policies of Southern Europe and Asia. Given the significant role of informal labor in these areas, particularly for women, the structure of welfare regimes can have a major impact on gender (in) equality. In this paper, we focus on the links between gender and social welfare regimes in Spain, Indonesia, and China. We investigate the ways that varying approaches to development, alongside mounting globalization pressures, have contributed to the evolution of social welfare regimes in these countries. Of particular interest is the evolution of welfare mechanisms and their effects on gender-differentiated outcomes such as decommodification and labor force participation. To this end, we examine three family policies (parental leave, child benefits, and childcare provision) in each country.

Safety net: something that provides security against misfortune or difficulty

Welfare: the state of doing well especially in respect to good fortune, happiness, well-being, or prosperity

Welfare state: a social system based on the assumption by a political state of primary responsibility for the individual and social welfare of its citizens

--Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2008)

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