

Welfare Regimes in the Wake of State Socialism: Viet Nam, China, and the Market-Leninist Welfare Regime

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ABSTRACT: This paper shows how a country's exit path from state socialism exerts path-dependent though non-deterministic effects on the subsequent development of its welfare regime. It examines how the erosion of state socialist institutions unfolded in Viet Nam and China and its implications for the welfare regimes in those countries. Overall, the paper suggests Viet Nam and China represent a distinctive type of welfare regime, the *market-Leninist regime*. In market-Leninist regimes, market economic institutions are subordinated to Leninist forms of political organization. These contradictory modes of social integration generate parallel and overlapping stratification effects. While Viet Nam and China do evidence some convergence with other welfare regimes in East Asia, they also display distinctive attributes, owing to their histories of socialist revolution and state socialism. At the same time, Viet Nam and China display significant differences in their welfare regimes, owing to distinctive patterns of state-socialist evolution and involution and of post state-socialist development. These differences explain why Viet Nam's welfare regime is more redistributive in its character.

KEYWORDS: Welfare regime, Market-Leninism, Viet Nam, China