



WHAT IS A WELFARE STATE?

- State intends to protect and promote economic and social well-being of citizens
- Principles:
 - Equality of opportunity (e.g., gender equality)
 - Equitable distribution of wealth
 - Public responsibility
- Typical provisions:
 - Social insurance
 - Education
 - Health care
 - Housing

WELFARE IN SWEDEN TODAY

- Advanced welfare state
- Health care
 - Insurance
 - Accident insurance
- Employment
 - Unemployment
 - Old-age pension
- Family
 - 480 days paid shared parental leave (before child is 8 years of age). Parents determine their distribution of days but 60 days are reserved for each parent. Why?
 - Child allowances
- Education
 - Preschool provided
 - Free education, and materials
 - Food at school is mostly free (changing?)
 - University is free of charge upon acceptance into a program



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCANDINAVIAN WELFARE STATE

- Four main phases
 - 1890s-1930s: modernization and expansion of old-fashioned, private programs
 - 1930s-1960s: basic, stigma-free welfare for all
 - 1960s-mid70s: universalization, increase in income-replacement
 - 1970s-present: expansion of programs, response to economic and globalization pressures
- Early welfare
 - Christian charities
 - Poor-Laws
 - Guilds
- Compulsory Education
- Guilds abolished

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCANDINAVIAN WELFARE STATE

- State subsidizes guild and union assistance
- Denmark: State funded old age insurance & free workers compensation
- Influence from Germany, England
- Emigration's influence
- Kanslergade Compromise, 1933: relief from the Great Depression
- Increase in patriotism, solidarity, and cooperation during WWII
- Income-replacement increases and decentralization
- New policies for childcare and elderly-care
- Economic crisis and immigration tax the system
- Globalization and the EU

CURRENT TRENDS

- Many argue that there is a current trend of **welfare state retrenchment**
- Why and why now?

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