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Review of *Colonialism and Welfare: Social Policy and the British Imperial Legacy*. James Midgley and David Piachaud (Eds.).

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and reciprocity dominate. Ultimately, Kohli and Heady (Ch. 17, Vol. 3) conclude that while some “crowding out” likely happens—financial support of the elderly is now primarily the responsibility of the state—other types of family solidarity and support are encouraged and enabled by the welfare state. The study also concludes that while social policies oftentimes emerge in response to economic changes and existing cultural patterns, they also promote specific goals such as increased fertility and women’s labor force participation, and, in recent years, an effort to shift assistance tasks to families. The latter trend, Kohli and Heady argue, may generate a “care crisis,” unless policies support flexible employment and provide financial support for caregiving, or, as Chevalier (Ch. 13, Vol. 3) shows, it can contribute to gender, class, and ethnic inequalities, as families with resources relegate caregiving to immigrant women, mostly undocumented and poorly paid.

This set of volumes is more integrated than many other edited collections, although numerous chapters with different authors do make it more difficult to identify the main arguments and pinpoint the evidence supporting them, and the quality of the writing is somewhat uneven. Nevertheless, the focus on kinship offers an important albeit underutilized lens for examining cross-national differences in family experiences, gender dynamics, and social policy regimes. The study provides a wealth of information, makes interesting theoretical arguments, and succeeds at preserving the micro-focus while considering macro-level cultural, economic, and social policy forces underlying kin ties. This blend of micro and macro approaches and the emphasis on theory-driven analyses make for an exciting set of volumes that will be of much interest to graduate students and scholars in the areas of family, gender, aging, and social policy.

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James Midgley & David Piachaud (Eds.), *Colonialism and Welfare: Social Policy and the British Imperial Legacy*. (2011). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited. \$110.00 (hardcover.)

This new book edited by Midgley and Piachaud addresses the limited attention paid by social policy analysts to the

impact of colonialism on the development of social welfare policies. By focusing solely on history of the British Empire on the development of social welfare policies in the former colonies, the book makes a strong argument for understanding the varied ways colonization affected the trajectory of welfare. This approach is informed by authors who are not only social work researchers, but also sociologists, historians, policy experts and development practitioners who hail from several countries, including former colonies. By weaving this interdisciplinary approach, the book focuses considerable expertise on social policy topics as diverse as social assistance, provident funds, social development, and identify formation.

Midgley and Piachaud argue persuasively that social policy analysis must include an historical analysis of the impact on former colonies of imperialism, both pre- and post-colonization, on current social welfare discussions. The book acknowledges that the complexity of imperialism and colonialism makes a global definition difficult. Given this complexity, the book does not assume the experiences among the countries highlighted in this book—which includes South Africa, India, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Australia, and the Caribbean region—are generalizable. A few themes do emerge, however, and are cautiously applied to understanding the impact of British colonization.

The book's 12 chapters are organized into three main parts. Part one consists of an overview of the British Empire, its impact on world history and the origins of social policy in the British colonies. This section of the book gives an historical context to British colonialism, as well as addressing theories and perspectives in social policy studies. Part two contains nine chapters designed as case studies that provide examples of social welfare policies originating out of the colonial experience. The authors skillfully describe colonization in the respective country, and then trace the development of welfare policies through the modern day. Subjects include racial differentiation and apartheid in social welfare in South Africa, compensatory discrimination policies based on the caste system in India, and the English Poor Laws in Zimbabwe. Part three brings these pieces together to address how the colonial legacy impacts current social policies, and identifies the implications for social policy today. Midgley and Piachaud state that it is inherently tricky to generalize findings from these case

studies to colonialism, but they do identify common strands. Colonization created an ideology that established the British Empire as arbiters of the betterment of the world's people. Slavery and the mass forced migration of people, along with the insistence on English as the language of government and education, have also had lasting impacts on the former colonies. Finally, government provided unequal access to services among urban and rural dwellers.

There are limitations to the book, which are outlined by the editors. There is little focus on the social policy impact of forced mass migration and the resulting diaspora, as well as on the impact of the influx of British immigrants into the colonies. Additionally, while the social policies of the Dominions of Australia and South Africa were examined, those of Canada and New Zealand were not.

The book is cohesive and well articulated, a great feat for pulling together a number of authors from different disciplines. Each chapter illuminates the complexities and the contradictions inherent in the legacy of colonialism on social welfare policy. Indeed, one can only hope that this book becomes the first in a series of books examining the legacy of colonialism, not only of the British Empire, but also the French, Dutch, and American Empires. This volume forces the reader to look past the Eurocentric, Western model of welfare to focus on the histories of countries that are still wrestling with the visible and invisible structures left by colonialism. While this book will certainly appeal to social work researchers, practitioners and students engaged in international policy and practice, it holds value for those in other fields of social work. The development of the American social work profession grew, in part, from the English Poor Laws of this era, and therefore the book provides insight for social workers still operating under the legacies of these policies in countries across the globe.

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