

Warfare and Welfare: The Impact of Mass War on Welfare State Development



BY PETER STARKE / UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

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ABSTRACT / I will discuss the theme and major conclusions from the book *Warfare and Welfare: Military Conflict and Welfare State Development in Western Countries*, edited by Klaus Peterson, Herbert Obinger, and Peter Starke (OUP, summer 2018). We are concerned with the nexus between warfare and welfare. From a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, it addresses the question of whether and how both world wars have influenced the development of advanced welfare states. Distinguishing between three different phases (war preparation, wartime mobilization, and the post-war period), the volume provides the first systematic comparative analysis of the impact of war on welfare state development in the Western world. The chapters, written by leading scholars in the field, examine both short-term responses to and long-term effects of war in fourteen belligerent, occupied, and neutral countries in the age of mass warfare stretching over the period from ca. 1860 to 1960. The findings clearly show that war is essential for understanding several aspects of welfare state development in advanced democracies.

BIO / Peter Starke is professor (mso) at the Danish Centre for Welfare Studies (DaWS) at the University of Southern Denmark. His research interests are comparative welfare state research, political economy, and qualitative and mixed methods. His publications have appeared in the *European Journal of Public Policy*, *Policy Studies Journal*, and *Politics & Society*, among others.