

Political Science 111

Instructor: Dr. Gregory Johnston

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### Capitalist Welfare States

A welfare state refers to a state's responsibility to secure some vital degree of welfare for its citizens and to ensure of the security of the people that live within the boundaries of that state. Capitalist welfare states are categorized under three models. These models include the Liberal regime, the Social Democratic regime, and the Corporatist regime. These regimes are characterized by several key variables, which create different systems of social stratification. The Liberal regime, which the United States is classified under, is associated with poverty relief that sustains differentiation based on income. The Corporatist regime is identified with contributory social insurance that maintains class distinctions based on occupational status. The Social Democratic regime is linked to middle-class universalism and social equality. While all of these models have benefits, the one that I find most appealing is the Social Democratic regime.

The Social Democratic regime seems to be the most beneficial and ideal type of capitalist welfare state. This is the only model of the three that does not seem to classify its citizens into groups of aristocrats and underprivileged. This model has several benefits, such as universal healthcare, which make it possible for all within the state to have the same opportunities. This allows a state to become more uniform. With this strive for social equality; there will be inevitably a reduction of violence and an increase in the number of people that have faith in their state. This will, ultimately, ensure that a state is successful. This model emancipates the working

class from having economic, social, and political barriers that often come with being in a class lower than that of the individuals that are considered elite.

Overall, I find the Social Democratic regime of capitalist welfare to be the most appealing. This model ensures that all of a state's citizens are taken care of, not just the privileged individuals. In the other models, there is a division created among the state's people, which, I think, makes the state weaker. The Social Democratic model of capitalist welfare takes care of a state as a whole. This gives everyone within that state's boundaries an advantage. In this model, everyone has an equal opportunity to seek healthcare, a higher education, and various other entities that will ensure that a state's individuals have the chance to be successful.