

Supplemental Box 1: Welfare state regimes

Nordic

Characterised by universalism, comparatively generous social transfers, a commitment to full employment and income protection; and a strongly interventionist state. The state is used to promote social equality through a redistributive social security system. Unlike the other welfare state regimes, the Nordic regime type promotes an equality of the highest standards, not an equality of minimal needs and it provides highly decommodifying programs.

Bismarckian

Distinguished by its 'status differentiating' welfare programs in which benefits are often earnings related, administered through the employer; and geared towards maintaining existing social patterns. The role of the family is also emphasised and the redistributive impact is minimal. However, the role of the market is marginalised.

Anglo-Saxon

State provision of welfare is minimal, social protection levels are modest and often attract strict entitlement criteria; and recipients are usually means-tested and stigmatised. In this model, the dominance of the market is encouraged both passively, by guaranteeing only a minimum, and actively, by subsidising private welfare schemes. The Anglo-Saxon welfare state regime thereby minimises the decommodification effects of the welfare state and a stark division exists between those, largely the poor, who rely on state aid and those who are able to afford private provision.

East Asian

The East Asian welfare state (sometimes referred to as Confucian) is characterised by low levels of government intervention and investment in social welfare, underdeveloped public service provision, and the fundamental importance of the family and voluntary sector in providing social safety nets. This minimalist approach is combined with an emphasis on Confucian social ethics (obligation for immediate family members, thrift, diligence and a strong education and work ethic).

Southern European

The southern welfare states have been described as 'rudimentary' because they are characterised by their fragmented system of welfare provision which consists of diverse income maintenance schemes that range from the meagre to the generous and welfare services, particularly, the health care system, that provide only limited and partial coverage. Reliance on the family and voluntary sector is also a prominent feature.

Eastern European

The formerly Communist countries of East Europe have experienced the demise of the universalism of the Communist welfare state and a shift towards policies associated more with the Anglo-Saxon welfare state regime notably marketisation and decentralisation. In comparison with the other member states of the European Union, they have limited welfare services.

Ex-Soviet

The formerly Ex-soviet Communist countries are most similar to the Eastern European grouping although even more fragmented in their welfare approach.

Adapted from Bamba 2007 ^[1] ; Eikemo and Bamba 2008 ^[2] Following others we use the following extra groupings for countries not included in Ferrera's original typology, East Asian or Confucian (Japan and Taiwan) ^[1, 3], Eastern European ^[4, 5] and Ex-Soviet welfare states ^[5]. We also added the USA, Canada, Australia and Israel to Ferrera's Anglo-Saxon group ^[6] and Iceland to the Nordic group.

- 1 Bambra C. Going beyond the three worlds of welfare capitalism: Regime theory and public health research. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2007;61: 1098-1102.
- 2 Eikemo TA, Bambra C, Judge K, et al. Welfare state regimes and differences in self-perceived health in Europe: A multilevel analysis. *Soc Sci Med*. 2008;66:2281-2295.
- 3 Karim SA, Eikemo TA, Bambra C. Welfare state regimes and population health: Integrating the East Asian welfare states. *Health Policy*. 2010;94:45-53.
- 4 Eikemo TA, Bambra C. The welfare state: A glossary for public health. *J Epidemiol Community Health*. 2008;62:3-6.
- 5 Fenger H. Welfare regimes in central and eastern Europe: Incorporating post-communist countries in a welfare regime typology. *Contemporary Issues and Ideas in Social Sciences*. 2007;3: 2.
- 6 Esping-Andersen G. *Social foundations of postindustrial economies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 1990.

Supplemental Table 1 – Total inequality measured by Gini coefficient by welfare state type for men

	Mean	Min	Max
Nordic	0.097	0.089	0.107
Bismarckian	0.099	0.091	0.107
Southern European	0.101	0.093	0.108
Anglo Saxon	0.103	0.094	0.121
Confucian	0.109	0.096	0.122
Eastern European	0.119	0.107	0.127
Ex-Soviet	0.153	0.139	0.174
Total	0.112	0.089	0.174

Supplemental Table 2 – Total inequality measured by Gini coefficient by welfare state type for women

	Mean	Min	Max
Southern European	0.077	0.075	0.079
Bismarckian	0.081	0.078	0.083
Nordic	0.081	0.079	0.088
Confucian	0.085	0.078	0.091
Anglo Saxon	0.087	0.079	0.100
Eastern European	0.090	0.081	0.099
Ex-Soviet	0.107	0.096	0.121
Total	0.088	0.075	0.121

Supplemental Table 3 – Total inequality measured by the standard deviation by welfare state type for men

	Mean	Min	Max
Nordic	14.54	13.82	15.50
Bismarckian	14.79	13.90	15.75
Southern European	15.06	14.35	15.65
Anglo Saxon	15.56	14.40	17.46
Eastern European	15.90	14.90	16.61
Confucian	15.96	14.65	17.28
Ex-Soviet	17.78	17.12	18.87
Total	15.67	13.82	18.87

Supplemental Table 4 – Total inequality measured by the standard deviation by welfare state type for women

	Mean	Min	Max
Southern European	12.97	12.84	13.12
Nordic	13.19	12.96	13.65
Bismarckian	13.45	13.04	13.91
Eastern European	14.07	12.96	15.34
Anglo Saxon	14.11	13.17	15.84
Confucian	14.14	13.53	14.75
Ex-Soviet	15.83	14.64	17.13
Total	14.04	12.84	17.13

