

affirm the relationship between the state and its citizens. In doing that, however, the public's expectation of what will be accomplished is often raised unrealistically given the limited parameters in which governments are willing to function.

Timpson's study is wonderfully readable and well grounded in interviews and uses a range of both primary and secondary sources. It is well deserving of the awards it has received.

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Women's Work is Never Done. Sylvia Bashevkin, ed. New York: Routledge, 2002; xi+199 pages; ISBN 0-415-93480 (cloth) ISBN 0-415-934818 (paper); \$128.00(cloth) \$35.95 (paper).

In December 2002, the Supreme Court of Canada brought down a 5 to 4 decision that was both a shock and a milestone in Canada's social history. No one, the Court said, was entitled to welfare as a Charter right. That decision marked the completion of the Conservative Mulroney-Harris project to rollback Canada's welfare state. As of January 2003, Workfare was *de facto* a right; welfare was not.

Women's Work is Never Done is a collection of essays on the welfare state and the shape it took in the mid-twentieth century. Edited by Sylvia Bashevkin, the book reflects her comparative method and her immersion in political science. The contributors are meticulous in their research, and, like Bashevkin, political scientists. They share an interest in modern societies where public opinion ranges from compassion for the poor and disadvantaged to enthusiasm for a market economy and tough love for those who fall between the cracks.

It is this dichotomized framework - sentiment or systems - that Selma Sevenhuijsen, a Dutch scholar, explores. What is a care-based society where the ethic of care pervades all of our activities and institution building? Can we construct a system of care which protects both diversity and independence? She traces the evolution of Dutch policy as it evolved from one stage to the next and toward a blueprint "where everybody regardless of sex or civil status, has the possibility of achieving an

independent existence, and in which women and men can realize equal rights" (16-17).

At the other extreme, Gwendolyn Mink provides a chilling description and analysis of one of the US programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. As each of the pieces fell into place, the whole became nothing less, she says, than a police state.

Other papers by Sylvia Bashevkin, Jane Jenson, Maureen Baker and Leah F. Vosko are comparative studies - Bashevkin continues her work on Canada, the UK and the US, Baker looks at Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK, while Jenson takes a wider sweep of European countries looking specifically at systems of payment for the care of "the frail elderly," and Vosko compares Ontario and the State of Wisconsin. What we mainly learn from these studies is (1) that there are alternative policies to consider; (2) that just about any policy has implications for gender and (3) that the political ethic of "choice" or mandated arrangements persists.

Many of the chapters discuss the family as our most vulnerable and, at the same time, most resilient institution. Bensonsmith retrieves the 1965 Moynihan Report on the Black family which was heavily criticized at the time because of its focus on the single parent. But for the Black community the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and *Brown v. the Board of Education* (1954) had a greater impact on its material wealth and human capital than Moynihan's critique of the single-parent family. Still, in terms of social planning, can we really factor the family out?

Women's Work is Never Done is for advanced students who have some background in political economy and are familiar with the debates on the welfare state. Others who have been over the discussions among feminists about whether women are "naturally" caring will greatly benefit. Finally there is a large caring public who are disturbed by the recent directions in Canadian public policy.

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Set Adrift: Fishing Families. Marian Binkley. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002. ISBN 0-8020-8351-X; 219 pages; \$24.95 (paper).