This is the first comprehensive modern analysis of public and private welfare in France, which offers a deeply researched explanation of how France’s welfare state came to be and why the French are so attached to it.

The author argues that France simultaneously pursued two different paths toward universal social protection. Family welfare embraced an industrial model in which class distinctions and employer control predominated. By contrast, protection against the risks of illness, disability, maternity, and old age followed a mutual aid model of welfare. The book examines a remarkably broad cast of actors that includes workers’ unions, employers, mutual leaders, the parliamentary elite, hauts fonctionnaires, doctors, pronatalists, women’s organizations – both social Catholic and feminist – and diverse peasant organizations. It also traces foreign influences on French social reform, particularly from Germany’s former territories in Alsace-Lorraine and Britain’s Beveridge Plan.

PAUL V. DUTTON is Assistant Professor of European History, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff.
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For Shelby
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Abbreviations

CAFM  Caisse d’Allocations Familiales de la Moselle
CAPS  Commission d’Assurance et de Prévoyance Sociales
CCAF  Comité Central des Allocations Familiales
CCRP  Caisse de Compensation de la Région Parisienne
CFTC  Confédération Française des Travailleurs Chrétiens
CGPF  Confédération Générale de la Production Française
CGT   Confédération Générale du Travail
CGTU  Confédération Générale du Travail Unitaire
CHAAPS Commission de l’Hygiène, de l’Assistance, de l’Assurance et de la Prévoyance Sociales
CNFF  Conseil National des Femmes Françaises
CNN   Congrès National de la Natalité
CNR   Conseil National de la Résistance
CSAF  Commission Supérieure des Allocations Familiales
CSN   Conseil Supérieur de la Natalité
FMT   Fédération Mutualiste du Travail
FNMCA Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité et de la Coopération Agricoles
FNMF  Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française
FNSEA Fédération Nationale des Syndicats d’Exploitants Agricoles
GIMM  Groupe des Industries Métallurgiques, Mécaniques et Connexes de la Région Parisienne
GIRP  Groupe des Industries de la Région Parisienne
HCP   Haut Comité de la Population
ILO   International Labor Organization
MRP   Mouvement Républicain Populaire
PCF   Parti Communiste Français

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<td>Section Française Internationale Ouvrière</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCSAF</td>
<td>Union Centrale des Syndicats des Agriculteurs de France</td>
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<tr>
<td>UFCS</td>
<td>Union Féminine Civique et Sociale</td>
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<td>UFSF</td>
<td>Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes</td>
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<td>UIMM</td>
<td>Union des Industries Métallurgiques et Minières</td>
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