

Family and the Welfare State – Social Ecological Perspectives

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KEYWORDS Family Policy. Welfare State. Modern Family. Quality of Life

ABSTRACT This paper examines one of the least studied areas that deals with the relation between the family and the state. The welfare state, notwithstanding the changes occurring in it, cannot destroy the family; on the contrary, it improves the family. One needs to examine here whether the relation between family development and family policy is destructive or constructive. In this paper, a simple reductionism is rebutted, and it is argued that changes in family living owe to a reaction of complex sociological factors. The argument is well exemplified with examples from various European countries.