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The Clientelistic Turn in
Welfare State Policy-Making

PARTY POLITICS IN TIMES OF AUSTERITY

Evelyne Hübscher

“Evelyne Hübscher provides a compelling account of social welfare policymaking that explains why labor market insiders still enjoy generous welfare entitlements, while poorer groups have turned to more extreme left or populist parties.”

Despina Alexiadou,
University of Strathclyde

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Using a mix of quantitative methods and case study research, this book critically assesses the impact of party governments in different institutional settings on welfare state generosity and labour market reforms. Its key findings contradict earlier established views on the impact of leftist governments on welfare state policies. Specifically, left-wing governments are pursuing clientelistic policies when facing high institutional constraints and austerity and turn out to cater towards the core workforce rather than designing policies for the full range of labour market participants.

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