

Is there a Common Path that could have Conditioned the Degree of Welfare State Development in Latin America and the Caribbean?

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The purpose of this paper is to re-examine from a multidimensional perspective the possible existence of a single path that could have conditioned the degree of welfare state development (WSD) in Latin America. Economic/industrial development, trade-openness, democracy and the strength of leftist parties-labour movement are used as explanatory variables in the qualitative comparative analysis. In contrast to previous findings, this paper shows that there is no evidence of a common path followed by countries with a relatively high/medium WSD. Nevertheless, countries that experienced a low economic/industrial development combined with a low democratic experience were conditioned to have low WSD. © 2016 The Author. Bulletin of Latin American Research © 2016 Society for Latin American Studies. Published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd

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