

## **The Welfare State**

It is a policy adopted by a state, which, in order to help its citizens provides regulation, economic and social competences. It can be opposed to a liberal state, which only focuses on security and public order (and doesn't want state intervention)

### **Facts and events :**

The UK and the US are spending around 25% of their GDP in social spending. To compare, Spain or France's spendings are over 25% : the UK and the US are considered as liberal welfare state, as they are not fully committed.

### **The US as a welfare state :**

- Work benefit: The Trans-national Firms receive the main part of the work benefit from the government, half of the amount of money has been distributed to only 5% of the American companies. Hundreds of thousands of companies went bankrupt.
- Health: Biden wants to build on the affordable care act with the aim to insure more than 97% of Americans.
- Family: The family and medical leave act allows for eligible employees to have 12 work weeks of leave in a 12-month period for the birth a child and to care for the newborn child within one year of birth.
- Limit: As the representative of capitalism many Americans resent the intervention of the states and want to have as little taxation as possible. Nevertheless, there are a lot of inequalities and the Us might improve its welfare policy as it isn't regardless of origins, identity or culture.

### **The UK as a welfare state :**

- Work benefit: During the pandemic, The Majesty's government introduced a furlough program to support employers and workers. Called the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, it funds businesses to continue paying 80% of employee's wage.
- Health: the NHS is offering the Covid 19 vaccin to people most at risk from coronavirus. Nevertheless there is a trend of vaccine skepticism. The pandemic has reduced the confidence in the state.
- Family: The Child benefit is a weekly allowance for British families. For the first child they receive 21.5£ and 13.95£ for each additional child.
- Limit: privatization in the UK is reaching important sectors (telecom and energy are also privatized), and they are disputed

### **The trial of Spain:**

Spain is going to experiment the largest test concerning UBI with more than 850 thousand households that can benefit from its financial help.

### **Quelques problématiques et axes de réflexion :**

To what extent should we preserve public services?

Is the privatization of key sectors the way to improve them?

Should States step in more to improve the welfare of their citizens ?

## **Vocabulary :**

expenditures: dépenses

privatisation: privatisation

interventionism: interventionisme

liberalism: libéralisme

healthcare: soins médicaux

Social services: assistance sociale

be insured: être couvert par une assurance

household bill: charges

public services: services publics

public order: ordre public

allowance: allocation, indemnité

to allocate: allouer

to alleviate: soulager, alléger

GDP: Gross Domestic Product (PBI)

UBI: Universal basic incomes

Affordable Care Act (ACA) = a legal reform aiming to improve the accessibility, affordability, and quality of healthcare

Medicare: health insurance for old people

Medicaid: health insurance for destitute people