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## **DEVELOPMENT OF WELFARE STATE IN BELGIUM**

The article examines the historical development of the welfare state in Belgium. Belgian social security system was formed in the early twentieth century as part of corporate social insurance schemes and mutual assistance. After the end of the World War II was established the model of social protection based on the Bismarck principles. Since the early 1980s began a process of modernization of the welfare state. The relevance of the topic is manifested in generalization of the process of formation of the welfare state in Belgium and its reform in terms of complex crises. Social protection was concentrated in numerous private common to entrepreneurs and professional workers schemes, activities of workers friendly societies (mutualities), trade unions and local authorities. One of the most famous and important social in-

novations, the principles of which were adopted by other countries, was the so-called Ghent system of unemployment insurance. In 1901, in the city Ghent was established a system of direct subsidies to members of trade unions with a specially created communal fund. The system provided each unemployed worker with fixed financial aid in addition to the amount he received from the union. Also reforms of various depth and intensity were performed in all areas of social security in Belgium. In general, the system change brought no dividends to insiders, i.e. traditionally the main customers of Bismarck welfare state. On the contrary, many reforms were aimed at improving the efficiency of the system in securing a minimum income of those commonly called outsiders, such as women, youth and the long-term unemployed.