Acknowledgments

My first debt is to Sonya Michel, without whom I never would have stumbled onto this topic. Working as her research assistant early in my graduate school career, I became fascinated with child care and other policies for working parents. It was my advisor, Nancy Bermeo, who made me realize that this topic could and should be the subject of my dissertation. I am thankful that she steered me away from the other dreary topics I was considering and encouraged me to follow my own interests rather than the current fads in political science. Sonya and Nancy have been my intellectual mentors and friends ever since.

The essential ingredient of money came from numerous sources: a Chateaubriand scholarship from the French government in 1997-98; the École Normale Supérieure, which provided me a place to live in Paris; research support from various institutions at Princeton University (the Council on Regional Studies, the Center for Domestic and Comparative Policy Studies, and the Woodrow Wilson Society of Fellows); George Washington University's Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, which paid for a very able research assistant, Christian Ruehling; and GWU's University Facilitating Fund, which financed some of my research abroad. In 2000-2001, I was supported by a post-doctoral grant at New York University's Institute for French Studies and received valuable reactions to my work from scholars and visiting fellows there, including Herrick Chapman, Erik Fassin, Emmanuelle Saada, and Martin Schain. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Scholars in Health Policy Research program then enabled me to spend two fruitful years at Yale University. Although I mostly worked on health policy during this period, I was able to present fledgling drafts of this manuscript to various groups on campus, including seminars organized by the Children's Research Group and the Council on European Studies, and to discuss my work with Sally Cohen, Jacob Hacker, Frances Rosenbluth, and Edward Zigler.

One of the joys of studying this topic is that people who work in this area are often thrilled to find others who care about it. I cannot thank all of my interviewees personally, but I am particularly indebted to a number of scholars and government officials who were willing to spend hours explaining, and reexplaining, how things work in their country. These include Christina Bergqvist and Irene Wennemo in Sweden; Jacqueline Ancelin, Jeanne Fagnani, Jérôme Minonzio, and Liliane Périer in France; and in the Netherlands, Jet Bussemaker, Serv Vinders, and three people from the Sociaal and Cultureel Planbureau: Wil Portegijs, Mariëlle Cloïn, and Heleen van Luijn. In the United States, I had very long and insightful discussions with Martin La Vor, Martha Phillips, and Richard Warden about past battles over child care policy. Lena, Peter, and Karin Wallensteen were generous and full of great ideas for my research on Sweden, as were Karen Anderson, Barbara Hobson, and Rianne Mahon. Similarly, Johan Hansen, Miranda Jansen, and Vries Kool gave me some good leads for my Dutch research, as did Jane Jenson for my research in France. I also am very grateful to Kees van Kersbergen and the Department of Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam for allowing me some scarce office space.

I wish also to thank those who have generously opened their homes to me each time I invade their country. Many thanks to Malika Al Mansouri and Sebastien Weijer, Marieke Voeten, and Gerrie and Rinus Voeten in the Netherlands, and to my very dear friend, Anne-Marie Menut, in Paris.

I am deeply indebted to the many friends and colleagues who read parts of the manuscript and gave critical comments along the way. Sheri Berman, Jennifer Hochschild, and Ezra Suleiman gave helpful suggestions on various versions of the dissertation while I was at Princeton. At GWU, I have benefited from the warm collegiality of the Department of Political Science, including the willingness of a number of colleagues to read my work. Henry Farrell, Steven Kelts, Gina Lambright, Elliot Posner, Chad Rector, and Melissa Schwartzberg all read parts of the manuscript and offered reactions at a critical stage of writing. On chapters and related conference papers, I received helpful comments and advice from Ann Orloff, Jacob Hacker, Jane

Lewis, Miranda Jansen, Rianne Mahon, Andrei Markovits, Sonya Michel, Rachel Roth, Herman Schwartz, Laurel Weldon, and Charmaine Yoest. I also gained tremendously from a workshop on religion and the welfare state at the Max Planck Institute in Cologne, Germany, organized by Philip Manow and Kees van Kersbergen. The reactions of Thomas Ertman and the other workshop participants to my paper were of great help in advancing my thinking on this topic.

All this work could have been for naught without a publisher. I am very grateful for the efficiency and responsiveness of Amanda Moran and Stanford University Press and for their enthusiasm for this project. Both Sonya Michel and Jonah Levy gave me wonderfully constructive comments that helped me to revise the manuscript for publication. Evan Lieberman and Kathrina Zippel then valiantly read the entire manuscript at a late stage. Their comments were invaluable in highlighting omissions and areas of fuzzy writing and thinking. Kathrina has read and commented on many pieces of the manuscript at various stages of its existence over the past few years, and I am in her debt for the many hours she has spent thoughtfully pondering my work.

My friends and family have been faithful supporters throughout the long and difficult process of writing a book. I cannot express enough my appreciation for my brilliant and inspiring friends—Monica Bhattacharyya, Marion Fourcade-Gourinchas, Cynthia Hooper, Katia Papagianni, Dietlind Stolle, and Kathrina Zippel. My parents, Marilyn and Patrick, as well as my brother and sister, Chris and Kelly, also have lent sympathetic ears to my endless tales of woe. I am lucky they are still willing to pick up the phone.

My greatest thanks go to my husband, Erik, who has read draft after draft, patiently offering advice and ideas and supporting me through some of the more discouraging stages of this project. His love and companionship have made it all worth it. I dedicate this book to him.