

## Abstract

### Welfare and Religion in a Divided Nation: Catholic Politics and Social Policy in Cold War Chile (1964-1990)

The complex relationship between the welfare state and religion has received growing attention during recent years. For the case of Latin America, researchers have focused mostly on the welfare state aspect. Religion by its side has been much less considered. In line with these developments, the goal of this thesis is to understand the role of Christian political ideas in shaping welfare state in the case of Chile. Looking at different governments from a comparative view, the goal of the thesis is to analyze how this relationship has taken place. This country is an interesting case because it belongs to a context where religion has developed in ways different from other regions that have been studied, and because it reflects the general discussion regarding welfare, which was taking place in Latin America, especially in the time of the Cold War.