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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>During the 1990s, globalisation, severe recession and changing social values among several other factors have challenged the Finnish welfare state as it was during the transition between the 1980s and the 1990s. The beginning of this paper is dedicated to describing macro-social and macroeconomic background issues as some of the factors that might have influenced the form of the Finnish welfare state.</p> <p>Later on, descriptive statistics have been used with the purpose of tracing potential retrenchment of the welfare state expenses and to elaborate the background information. The descriptive data indicates growth in social security expenses paid by the Finnish state, as well as rising unemployment rate, growing debt and sinking gross national product in the early 1990s. According to the same data, the national economy has recovered by the late 1990s, and social security expenses have mainly decreased simultaneously.</p> <p>In order to see how the welfare state has developed and reacted to the internal and external changes in the 1990s and to see how diverse social groups have been treated within the Finnish social security system, institutional revisions in three social security programs have been viewed in a narrative study. Developments in these social security programs have been compared to some presumably significant background factors in order to see if they could have affected these revisions. The conclusions are that retrenchment on the institutional level can be observed, tendency seems to be towards more activating social policies, as well as that the traditional universality of the Finnish welfare state may be fading.</p>		
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