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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE TO

"Towards a Sociology of Old Age Policy" Chapter II of Old Age and the State

by Anne-Marie Guillemard

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The translation included here comes from Chapter II of the volume *La Vieillesse et l'Etat (Old Age and the State)* by Anne-Marie Guillemard.¹ As a sociologist, Professor Guillemard is concerned with the analysis, the formulation, the social uses and the general significance of old age policy. Although France is the focus, her approach or framework provides needed theoretical tools for policy researchers, gerontologists and various students concerned with macro-societal issues; tools which could readily be applied to an analysis of the Older American Act. In Chapter II she critically reviews five sociological frameworks: (1) the "rationalist" or functionalist model, (2) "pluralist" or competitive interest group model, (3) "organizational" or state control model, (4) social class or Marxian model, and (5) "social policies" as 'technology of power' model. She concludes that a blend of models two through five best explains the evolution of French social old age policy. Chapter I of this volume traces the successive transformations of the modes of intervention and management of old age. In the review by Claus² and in recent papers in English by Guillemard³ scholars can access her argument that at different historical moments either the State or social class relations take on more or less significance or at least become more or less visible. She outlines three major periods in France: (1) the policy of assistance (1947-60), (2) the policy of segregated living (1960-68), and (3) the evolution of a policy of integration (1969-80) (See Rosenkier, 1982).⁴

The remaining chapters in the volume deal more directly with the study of French old age policy and its impact on the aged as well as society in general. After reviewing official documents, she asks, how has old age been defined and constructed

by the authorities? What has been the impact of various interventions at the local level?

Based at the Centre d'Etude des Mouvements sociaux, Guillemard has created three additional major works, unfortunately not translated. *La Retraite, une mort sociale (Retirement, a Social Death)*,⁵ in collaboration with Remi Lenoir *Retraite et Echange social (Retirement and Social Exchange)*,⁶ and more recently the three volume work, *Dynamique et crise des politiques de la vieillesse: Contribution à une sociologie des politiques sociales (The Dynamics and Crisis of Old Age Policy: Contribution to the Sociology of Social Policy)*.⁷ It does not seem an overstatement to claim that Professor Guillemard who was appointed to the faculty at the Sorbonne University in 1985, is the leading social theorist on aging in France.^{8,9}

FOOTNOTES

1. Anne-Marie Guillemard, *La Vieillesse et l'Etat*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1980, 238 pp.
2. Lisbeth M. Claus, (Review) *The Gerontologist* 24, 2 (1984), 214-215.
3. Anne-Marie Guillemard, "Reflections Upon the Development and Current Crisis of Old Age Policy: The French Case." Presented at *Humanistic Perspectives on the Aging Enterprise in America*, March 8, 1985.
4. Alain Rozenkier, (Review) *Aging and Society* Vol. 2, Part 1 (March, 1982), 121-123.
5. Anne-Marie Guillemard, *La Retraite, une mort sociale*. Paris, 1972, Editions Mouton, 1972, 303 pp.
6. Anne-Marie Guillemard and Rémi Lenoir, *Retraite et Echange social*. Paris: Centre d'Etude de Mouvements sociaux, 1974, 330 pp.
7. Anne-Marie Guillemard, *Dynamique et crise des politiques de la vieillesse: Contribution à une sociologie des politiques sociales*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 3 tomes, 1985, 1019 pp.

Additional Relevant References in English

8. Anne-Marie Guillemard (ed.), *Old Age and the Welfare State*. London: Sage, 1983, 265 pp.
9. Anne-Marie Guillemard, "Old Age Retirement and Social Class Structure: Towards an Analysis of the Structural Dynamics of the Later Stage of Life." In T. Harevan (ed.), *Aging and the Life Course in Cross Cultural and Interdisciplinary Perspective*. New York: Guilford Press, 1982, pp. 221-243.

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