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Autore	Keune Maarten
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Sommario/riassunto	The 1997 book <i>A Dutch Miracle</i> by J. Visser and A. Hemerijck analysed the role of negotiation, coordination and consensus in the Dutch Polder Model and found that these were crucial factors in overcoming the high unemployment rate of the early 1980s and the good performance of the Dutch labour market in the 1990s. Now, almost 20 years later, more and more questions are being asked about both the legitimacy and functionality of the Polder model. The representativeness of the trade unions is declining and young people and small and medium-sized businesses often do not see themselves represented in the Polder, which, according to critics, represents partial interests rather than the general interest in an undemocratic way and stands in the way of necessary socio-economic reforms. Differentiation of interests between sectors or the higher and lower educated also makes it

increasingly difficult for the social partners to speak with one voice and make central agreements on behalf of all those involved. It has also become more difficult for the social partners to make agreements about social security and then to play a role in the implementation of these agreements, as their role in the implementation of social security has decreased. Coordination of general social security policy and coordination with collective labour agreements and employment conditions policy have thus become more difficult. Making central agreements is further limited by the growing importance of European policy and agreements in the Euro context with regard to government expenditure, and by advancing globalization and financialization. These developments and criticisms therefore lead to serious questions about the legitimacy and functionality of the Polder model. In this book, the contemporary legitimacy and functionality of the model are analysed from different angles and disciplines in order to form a picture of the Polder model today and the possible role of the Polder model in the future. The lessons from the different chapters are brought together in the introduction.
