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The Case of Portugal -- 6. Church-State Relations in Today's Crisis-
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Religious Organizations as Welfare Providers and the Public in Sweden
-- 8. Social Capital and Religion in the United Kingdom -- 9. Faith-
based Organizations under Double-Pressure: The Impact of Market-
Liberalization and Secularization on Caritas and Diakonie in Germany. .

Sommario/riassunto

This volume examines the role and function of religious-based organizations in strengthening associational life in a representative sample of West European countries: newly democratized and long-established democracies, societies with and without a dominant religious tradition, and welfare states with different levels and types of state-provided social services. It asks how faith-based organizations, in a time of economic crisis, and with declining numbers of adherents, might contribute to the deepening of democracy. Throughout, the volume invites social scientists to consider the on-going role of faith-based organizations in Western European civil society, and investigates whether the concept of muted vibrancy aids our theoretical understanding.
