The missing middle of companies reduces competitive pressure on large incumbents. In comparing Latin American companies with large firms in a benchmark set of ten countries—China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey—we find several indications that the competitive dynamics are less powerful, but with important variation across countries. The other missing middle is a cohort of upwardly mobile consumers whose rising disposable income helps drive economic demand and investment on a sustainable basis. As noted, many of those lifted out of poverty remain vulnerable and have not reached a comfortable middle-class existence. Debates about fundamental reworkings of national social policy are at the center of U.S. politics and are likely to remain there for the foreseeable future. As the turn of a new century approaches, Americans are looking critically at the scope and purposes of their nation’s social policies. Reconsiderations are inspired by the changing needs of a national population that includes increasing numbers of elderly people, employed mothers, low-wage workers not making incomes sufficient. The book, in short, deals with not only the societal trends and public policies, but also with the conflicts and possibilities of American domestic policy. This book is divided into five chapters and the topics include: the missing middle, background on successful social policy, the security of our grandparents, social security for today’s generation, and what it will take to build a successful system. The first four chapters are sometimes general and repetitive, but the final chapter is well worth the read. In the last chapter, Skocpol outlines what she thinks can be done to reach families, aging, and social change: inter-generational relationships in the future. Paper presented at the Groves Conference on Marriage and the Family, San Diego, CA. Google Scholar. Berger, B. (1981). Household work and the family life satisfaction of blacks. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 50 (3), 743-748. Google Scholar. Brown, J. E., & Mann, L. (1989). The future of the American family. Current Population Reports: Special Studies, Series D-23, No. 78. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office. Google Scholar. Theda Skocpol, This Missing Middle: working families and the future of American social policy, Norton, New York, 2000, xii + 207 pp., £17.95. Article in Journal of Social Policy 29(04):697 - 726 · October 2000 with 1 Reads. How we measure 'reads'. If you have doubts about the future of the American family read this article and you will change your mind. Read more. Preprint. [Show full abstract] value predicament in American society does not point to a revolution in family values which other analyses have indicated. Rather, the preponderance of evidence strongly suggests increased interpenetration and interdependence between the family and the economic sphere. Read more. Discover more.