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The following annotation will appear in the September 2007 issue of the *Journal of Economic Literature* (Volume 45, no. 3) and in the American Economic Association's electronic publications: *e-JEL*, *JEL* on CD, and EconLit.

GALASSO, VINCENZO. *The Political Future of Social Security in Aging Societies*. Cambridge and London: MIT Press, 2006. Pp. xvii, 257. \$35.00. ISBN 978-0-262-07273-1.

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Explores the future political sustainability of social security in six countries with rapidly aging populations. Discusses crucial features of the social security debate—a cross-country analysis; theories of welfare state expansion and retrenchment; assessing the political sustainability of social security systems—a theoretical framework; the future of the social security system in France; the future of the social security system in Germany; political sustainability and reforms in Italy; political sustainability and the silent reform in Spain; political sustainability in a redistributive system—the United Kingdom; political sustainability in a redistributive system—the United States; and demographics, political sustainability, and reform options—a cross-country comparison. Galasso is Associate Professor of Economics at Bocconi University, Research Affiliate at the Centre for Economic Policy Research, and Research Fellow at the Innocenzo Gasparini Institute for Economic Research. Bibliography; index.