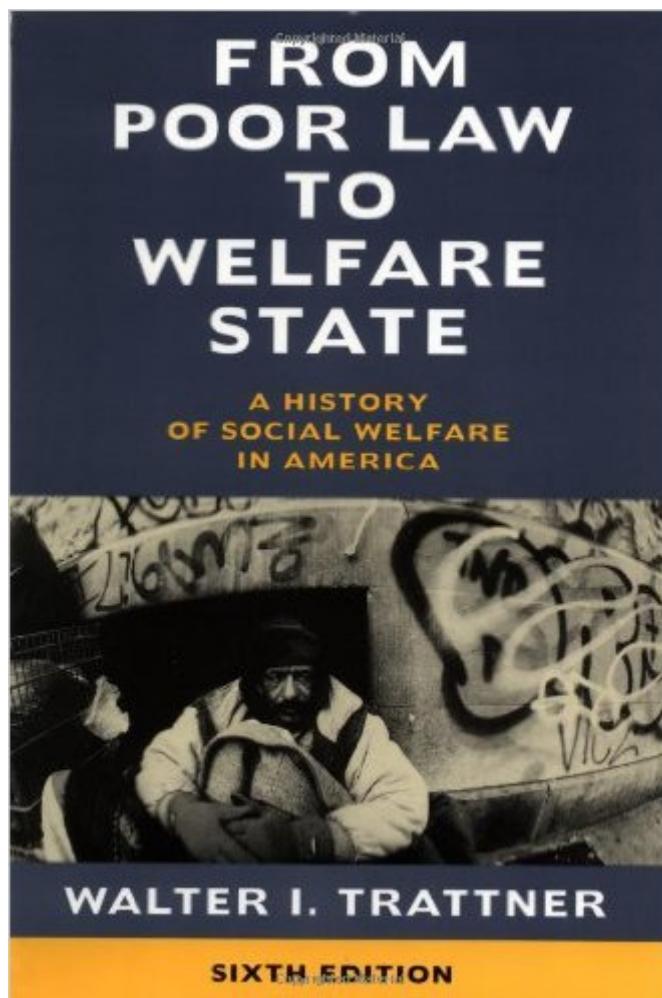


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# From Poor Law To Welfare State, 6th Edition: A History Of Social Welfare In America



## Synopsis

Over twenty-five years and through five editions, Walter I. Trattner's *From Poor Law to Welfare State* has served as the standard text on the history of welfare policy in the United States. The only comprehensive account of American social welfare history from the colonial era to the present, the new sixth edition has been updated to include the latest developments in our society as well as trends in social welfare. Trattner provides in-depth examination of developments in child welfare, public health, and the evolution of social work as a profession, showing how all these changes affected the treatment of the poor and needy in America. He explores the impact of public policies on social workers and other helping professions "all against the backdrop of social and intellectual trends in American history. *From Poor Law to Welfare State* directly addresses racism and sexism and pays special attention to the worsening problems of child abuse, neglect, and homelessness. Topics new to this sixth edition include: -A review of President Clinton's health-care reform and its failure, and his efforts to "end welfare as we know it" • -Recent developments in child welfare including an expanded section on the voluntary use of children's institutions by parents in the nineteenth century, and the continued discrimination against black youth in the juvenile justice system -An in-depth discussion of Charles Murray and Richard Herrnstein's controversial book, *The Bell Curve*, which provided social conservatives new weapons in their war on the black poor and social welfare in general -The latest information on AIDS and the reappearance of tuberculosis and their impact on public health policy -A new Preface and Conclusion, and substantially updated Bibliographies Written for students in social work and other human service professions, *From Poor Law to Welfare State: A History of Social Welfare in America* is also an essential resource for historians, political scientists, sociologists, and policymakers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am doing research on our local poor farm and this has given me more information than I have ever imagined. It definitely starts at the beginning of care for and of the poor and follows through to the end. Trattner has done an excellent job covering the poor laws to modern day social welfare in a comprehensive and straight-forward manner. I have found the book intriguing and thought provoking. Well written to the point that researcher and layman alike can read this book and find it to be a valuable resource. Professors would be well advised to include this in their classroom. Definitely a book to keep on my shelf for years to come.

Published in 1999 and somewhat dated, but a good historical overview of social welfare in the United States, particularly in the early portion of the nation's history. A good beginner guide to the subject matter--not recommended for those who are already subject matter experts in the area.

I paid full price for this product and am reviewing of my own accord. Great book. Easy and compelling read which is a difficult feat when discussing such emotionally charged subject matters. Ken Burns & Trattner should talk IMO.

This text was very informative and helped me gain a better understanding of the history of social work in America. I now understand why we are at the point we are in the field, and where we came from to get here.

Trattner takes the reader back in time to define how modern America has developed its current welfare state. Certainly this is a task that cannot be fully done in only 400 pages. The only weakness in this book is that it is too brief. It does not go into enough detail, but it is comprehensive enough to give a solid introduction to the modern American welfare state and the issues that face America's poor. This is a good book.

I had to get this book for school. I wouldn't recommend buying it if you need it for a class and have another option. I tried to resell it but the school bookstore was only willing to give me one dollar for

it. I ended up keeping it but since it isn't a great book for reference or anything I may just use it as firewood.

Blah, I am using this book for a history of social work class and boy it's a dry read. It's interesting but repetitive. Also there are no additional study materials that can be bought to go with this book either. Good luck if you're taking a class using this as the text. Ps: if Lahasky is your instructor, take detailed notes of the reading, you will need them!

Although written in a scholarly manner the book isn't dull. I'm very interested in how we got to the present welfare state we now have and this book provides the history from colonial times to present day.

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