



# **The Reluctant Welfare State: American Social Welfare Policies--Past, Present, and Future (with InfoTrac)**

*Bruce S. Jansson*

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Written in clear, lively prose and supported by Jansson's impeccable research, this highly respected book analyzes the evolution of the American welfare state from colonial times to present--not only covering three centuries of historical developments, but contemporary policies in the first years of the 21st century--and it places social policy in its political, cultural, and societal context. Using social policy history as a catalyst, Jansson invites students to think critically about issues, developments, and policies in prior eras and in contemporary society, and he inspires students to develop their own "policy identity." This book uniquely links social welfare policy to an empowerment perspective, showing how African Americans, Latinos, women, gays and lesbians, Asian Americans, Native Americans, the elderly, poor people, and other vulnerable populations, as well as social reformers, have achieved progressive reforms through policy advocacy. By making these powerful connections among historical events, current social welfare policy, and the profession of social work, Jansson illustrates how a deep understanding of the past can inform our present and future actions.

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