

The Dilemma of American Social Welfare

William M. Epstein



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Andrew W. Dobelstein



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The Dilemma of American Social Welfare William Epstein, 2017-09-04 In the current political climate of the U S there are no easily apparent solutions to the social problems we face William M Epstein claims that people in need have been poorly served and misled by the American system of social welfare This is one of those rare works emanating from a social welfare expert that does not offer easy placebos or simplistic claims based on more money The Dilemma of American Social Welfare argues against the idea that there are inexpensive cures for serious societal sicknesses Epstein takes on an immense literature in psychotherapy social work and welfare all offering simple answers to complex problems Two of the largest social experiments ever undertaken in the U S are evaluated in depth The Negative Income Tax experiments of the 1960s and early 1970s tested the feasibility of an income guarantee and the Evaluation of State Work Welfare Initiatives employed a variety of programs to stimulate welfare recipients to find jobs Epstein also analyzes social services associated with social work and examines approaches to juvenile delinquency and drug addiction Epstein is blunt in his denial that traditional welfare can readily resolve major social and economic questions of the times His work addressed to the malaise in the social welfare or helping professions should serve as an early warning signal that easy solutions are hard for recipients to identify and harder still for donors to put forth Although it was originally published in the early 1990s the book remains relevant to political and social questions of the day which makes it of interest to sociologists political scientists policymakers researchers and others interested in policy and urban studies

The Dilemma of American Social Welfare William M. Epstein, 2011-12-01 In the current political climate of the U S there are no easily apparent solutions to the social problems we face William M Epstein claims that people in need have been poorly served and misled by the American system of social welfare This is one of those rare works emanating from a social welfare expert that does not offer easy placebos or simplistic claims based on more money The Dilemma of American Social Welfare argues against the idea that there are inexpensive cures for serious societal sicknesses Epstein takes on an immense literature in psychotherapy social work and welfare all offering simple answers to complex problems Two of the largest social experiments ever undertaken in the U S are evaluated in depth The Negative Income Tax experiments of the 1960s and early 1970s tested the feasibility of an income guarantee and the Evaluation of State Work Welfare Initiatives employed a variety of programs to stimulate welfare recipients to find jobs Epstein also analyzes social services associated with social work and examines approaches to juvenile delinquency and drug addiction Epstein is blunt in his denial that traditional welfare can readily resolve major social and economic questions of the times His work addressed to the malaise in the social welfare or helping professions should serve as an early warning signal that easy solutions are hard for recipients to identify and harder still for donors to put forth Although it was originally published in the early 1990s the book remains relevant to political and social questions of the day which makes it of interest to sociologists political scientists policymakers researchers and others interested in policy and urban studies *Moral Authority, Ideology,*

And The Future Of American Social Welfare Andrew W. Dobelstein, 2018-02-20 This book suggests how welfare can be reformed by taking the American ideological context as a road map for which welfare changes are possible and which are not laying out a framework for welfare as America enters the twenty first century **Welfare in America** William M. Epstein, 1997-12-01 William M Epstein charges that most current social welfare programs are not held to credible standards in their design or their results Rather than spending less on such research and programs however Epstein suggests we should spend much more and do the job right The American public and policymakers need to rely on social science research for objective credible information when trying to solve problems of employment affordable housing effective health care and family integrity But Epstein contends politicians treat welfare issues as ideological battlegrounds they demand immediate results from questionable data and implement policies long before social researchers can complete their analyses Social scientists often play into the political agenda supporting poorly conceived programs and doing little to test and revise them Analyzing Aid to Families with Dependent Children AFDC and the recent welfare reform act Food Stamps Medicaid job training social services and other programs Epstein systematically challenges the conservative s vain hope that neglect is therapeutic for the poor as well as the liberal s conceit that a little bit of assistance is sufficient *Empowerment as Ceremony* William Epstein, 2017-07-28 Many people in the United States are poor lead marginal lives and need jobs as well as basic services such as education medical care and housing Multitudes in other parts of the world in addition to being poor are jailed tortured and killed for being members of the wrong ethnic group or expressing political opinions Those who argue for empowerment claim it is a magic bullet It can liberate the oppressed largely through self organization self motivation self invention and even self clarity William M Epstein sees contemporary empowerment practice in the United States as a civic church of national values one better in performing its ceremonial role than god based houses of worship By itself empowerment is not worth the effort of commentary since it achieves none of its goals and has not even generated a respectable critical literature But Epstein argues that empowerment practice and American social welfare both embody prescriptive cultural preferences Like art and music empowerment opens windows into deeper social meaning The social sciences have carved out roles for themselves by looking for simple remedies ones that are inexpensive and compatible with contemporary social arrangements Epstein shows that those in social work practices have not only deluded themselves into thinking that these services have real instrumental value but really operate at cross purposes This accessible work will attract critical attention among these professional groups It bases its carefully documented insights upon informed sociological and anthropological theory **Pandora's Dilemma** David Stoesz, 2018 Pandora s Dilemma presents theories of social welfare addressing stakeholders the policy process electoral politics child welfare the precariat online education the devolution of the welfare state and the evolution of the investment state *The Illusion of Psychotherapy* William Epstein, 2018-04-17 In *The Illusion of Psychotherapy* William Epstein asserts that psychotherapy is probably ineffective and

possibly harmful He maintains that there is no credible clinical evidence that psychotherapy is effective in handling personal or social problems or that it is more effective than other modes of treatment The theories that underpin clinical practice remain speculative and their influence over social policy are more ideological than scientific A skeptical public and its government would be better served Epstein says by credible evidence of outcomes His analysis focuses on whether psychotherapy is effective against a variety of unwanted behaviors such as drug addiction and depression The nation's social problems are due to the inadequacies of its core social institutions families communities education and jobs Social problems emerge because many people are brought up in deficient families live in dangerous communities lack education and jobs and have few or no routes out of poverty Poor people are exposed to unrelenting risks to their physical and mental health It is possible to remedy most deficiencies through human services that compensate for these failed social institutions This position is inevitably unpopular in psychotherapeutic circles and in light of current political preferences since it requires massive new resources and extensive redistribution of existing resources The extent of society's problems reflects the degree to which deficits in basic social institutions have been tolerated Basic services have been lacking while psychotherapy diverts our impulse to address poverty into ineffective strategies In a challenging conclusion Epstein urges society to solve its problems by confronting the reality implied by the failure of psychotherapy's minimal interventions to acknowledge that more is necessary to resolve social need This leads to general theoretical concerns about theory as such The Illusion of Psychotherapy will be compelling reading for psychologists psychotherapists social scientists and policymakers *The Handbook of Social Work Research Methods* Bruce Thyer, 2010 This updated Handbook addresses the changes in the field of social work as qualitative research gains more prominence as well as mixed methods and various issues regarding race ethnicity and gender Edited by a leading scholar in the field this text covers meta analysis designs to evaluate treatment and key Internet resources **Democracy Without Decency** William M. Epstein, 2015-10-20 The conservative attacks on the welfare system in the United States over the past several decades have put liberal defenders of poverty relief and social insurance programs on the defensive In this no holds barred look at the reality of American social policy since World War II William Epstein argues that this defense is not worth mounting that the claimed successes of American social programs are not sustained by evidence Rather than their failure being the result of inadequate implementation or political resistance stemming from the culture wars these programs and their built in limitations actually do represent what the vast majority of people in this country want them to be However much people may speak in favor of welfare the proof of what they really want is in the pudding of the social policies that are actually legislated The stinginess of America's welfare system is the product of basic American values rooted in the myth of heroic individualism and reinforced by a commitment to social efficiency the idea that social services need to be minimal and compatible with current social arrangements *Piety and Public Funding* Axel R. Schäfer, 2012-06-28 How is it that some conservative groups are viscerally antigovernment even while

enjoying the benefits of government funding In *Piety and Public Funding* historian Axel R Sch fer offers a compelling answer to this question by chronicling how in the first half century since World War II conservative evangelical groups became increasingly adept at accommodating their hostility to the state with federal support Though holding to the ideals of church state separation evangelicals gradually took advantage of expanded public funding opportunities for religious foreign aid health care education and social welfare This was especially the case during the Cold War when groups such as the National Association of Evangelicals were at the forefront of battling communism at home and abroad It was evident too in the Sunbelt where the military industrial complex grew exponentially after World War II and where the postwar right would achieve its earliest success Contrary to evangelicals own claims liberal public policies were a boon for not a threat to their own institutions and values The welfare state forged during the New Deal and renewed by the Great Society hastened not hindered the ascendancy of a conservative political movement that would in turn use its resurgence as leverage against the very system that helped create it By showing that the liberal state s dependence on private and nonprofit social services made it vulnerable to assaults from the right *Piety and Public Funding* brings a much needed historical perspective to a hotly debated contemporary issue the efforts of both Republican and Democratic administrations to channel federal money to faith based organizations It suggests a major reevaluation of the religious right which grew to dominate evangelicalism by exploiting institutional ties to the state while simultaneously brandishing a message of free enterprise and moral awakening

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The Dilemma Of American Social Welfare Introduction

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