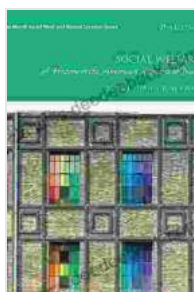


The American Response to Need: A Historical Timeline

For centuries, the United States has grappled with the problem of how to address the needs of its citizens. The American response to need has evolved over time, from a reliance on private charity to the development of a comprehensive system of social welfare programs. This article will explore the history of the American response to need, from its colonial origins to the present day.

Colonial Origins

The first social welfare programs in the United States were established in the colonial era. These programs were typically based on the principles of Christian charity and were often administered by local churches and charitable organizations. The most common form of assistance was direct relief, which provided food, clothing, and shelter to the poor. In addition, some colonies established orphanages and other institutions to care for the most vulnerable members of society.



Social Welfare: A History of the American Response to Need (2-downloads) (Merrill Social Work and Human Services) by Mark J. Stern

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The Early Republic

The American Revolution brought about a number of changes in the way that the United States addressed the needs of its citizens. The new nation was founded on the principles of individual liberty and self-reliance, and there was a general reluctance to rely on government assistance. However, the government did begin to take a more active role in providing for the welfare of its citizens, particularly veterans and the elderly. In 1798, the Congress established the Navy Pension Fund, which provided pensions to disabled sailors and marines. In 1832, the Congress passed the Invalid Pension Act, which extended pensions to veterans of the Revolutionary War.

The Civil War and Reconstruction

The Civil War and Reconstruction era was a time of great social and economic upheaval in the United States. The war left millions of people homeless, displaced, and impoverished. The government responded to this crisis by establishing a number of new social welfare programs, including the Freedmen's Bureau, which provided food, clothing, and medical care to freed slaves. The government also established the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, which provided housing and medical care to disabled veterans.

The Progressive Era

The Progressive Era was a time of great social and political reform in the United States. Social reformers were concerned about the plight of the poor and working class, and they advocated for a number of new social welfare programs. These programs included child labor laws, minimum wage laws, and workers' compensation laws. The Progressive Era also saw the establishment of the first national social insurance program, the Old Age

Survivors and Disability Insurance program (OASDI). OASDI provided retirement benefits to workers who had reached a certain age and disability benefits to workers who were disabled.

The New Deal

The New Deal was a series of economic and social reforms that were enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in response to the Great Depression. The New Deal included a number of new social welfare programs, including Social Security, unemployment insurance, and food stamps. Social Security provided retirement benefits to workers who had reached a certain age and disability benefits to workers who were disabled. Unemployment insurance provided temporary income to workers who had lost their jobs. Food stamps provided food assistance to low-income families.

The Great Society

The Great Society was a series of domestic programs that were enacted by President Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s. The Great Society included a number of new social welfare programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Head Start. Medicare provided health insurance to the elderly and disabled. Medicaid provided health insurance to low-income families. Head Start provided early childhood education to low-income children.

The Reagan Revolution

The Reagan Revolution was a series of economic and social policies that were enacted by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. The Reagan Revolution included a number of changes to the social welfare system, including cuts to welfare benefits and the elimination of some social welfare

programs. The Reagan Revolution also saw the rise of a new philosophy of government, which emphasized self-reliance and individual responsibility.

The Clinton Era

The Clinton era was a time of relative prosperity in the United States. The economy grew steadily, and the unemployment rate declined. President Bill Clinton enacted a number of social welfare programs, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which provided tax breaks to low-income working families. The Clinton era also saw the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), which reformed the welfare system and imposed new work requirements on welfare recipients.

The George W. Bush Administration

The George W. Bush administration was a time of great social and economic change in the United States. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks led to the War on Terror, which had a significant impact on the social welfare system. The Bush administration also enacted a number of social welfare programs, including the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA), which provided prescription drug coverage to seniors.

The Obama Administration

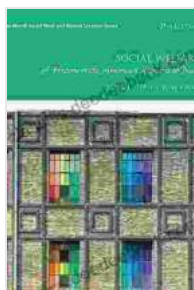
The Obama administration was a time of significant social and economic change in the United States. The Great Recession of 2008 led to a sharp increase in unemployment and poverty. President Barack Obama enacted a number of social welfare programs, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which expanded health insurance coverage to millions of Americans.

The Obama administration also enacted a number of tax cuts for low-income families.

The Trump Administration

The Trump administration has been a time of significant change to the social welfare system. The Trump administration has enacted a number of tax cuts, which have disproportionately benefited wealthy Americans. The Trump administration has also proposed a number of cuts to social welfare programs, including Medicaid and food stamps. The Trump administration has also taken steps to restrict immigration, which has had a negative impact on the social welfare system.

The American response to need has evolved over time, from a reliance on private charity to the development of a comprehensive system of social welfare programs. The social welfare system has been shaped by a number of factors, including economic conditions, political ideology, and social movements. The social welfare system is constantly evolving, and it is unclear what the future holds. However, one thing is certain: the need for social welfare programs will continue to exist for the foreseeable future.



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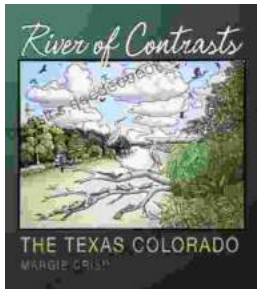
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