This best-selling text provides a balanced and comprehensive overview of social welfare policy in the United States while examining cutting-edge issues, including information on the 2008 presidential election, the economy, the housing bust, the passage of Proposition 8 in California, and much more.

**Synopsis**

This book has a lot of information in it and covers a very wide spectrum of different policies. I do wish they were a little more thorough with current policy since there is already a lot of information on major historical policy and programs. Overall it was very informative and a decent book for my class but there are probably more reader friendly books out there that could also get the job done.

This textbook is incredibly biased. Thought most social work books are left leaning, this one is to the point where it won’t even give the other side the benefit of the doubt. I also am constantly finding grammar and spelling mistakes. Ridiculous.

I am in Social Work school and we are using this book for a policy class. I have actually been reading it, which I cannot say for all of my assigned readings. (shhh, don’t tell) I am particularly enjoying the mix of history and current policy. My husband is even interested in reading it when I am
done. I recommend this book if you are also (like me) having trouble with different ideologies in your family. It is amazing how much more you will understand about why people think the way they do and the logic you will garner once you understand the history.

I understand that social policy may not be an easy subject to write about, but this is nuts. This book is full of complicated, convoluted, overly wordy explanations - even the easy ones. Sorry if you have to get this for a class, but expect to spend a lot of time saying "HUH?!" and then realizing you have learned just a tad bit of info from a whole lotta words.

This was a reasonable required textbook for my college course, but it is also worthy of keeping on my shelf for future references; both for me and my Jr high/high school students. Contains plenty of useful beginners information.

This book is great at explaining certain issues, but other issues like economics in early America is just really confusing, I mean I am a Masters level student and its hard for me to understand. I can't imagine what its like for those actually studying some form of economics! Nonetheless, I am studying social work and not economics, but it sure would be helpful to get a quick rundown of these topics without all of the technical jargon used by the authors. Perhaps they should remember who their audience is? Just a suggestion.

I was assigned this text for a graduate school class and was disappointed. It is designed and reads like a middle/high school textbook and provides about that much basis for discussion. In the hands of a better professor, perhaps, it could be salvaged, but my experience with this book was a total letdown.

Interesting material but very outdated, sometimes going on and on. Had to buy it for class and liked the layout but the material didn't really stick with me. Would suggest another book for a class on social policy.

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