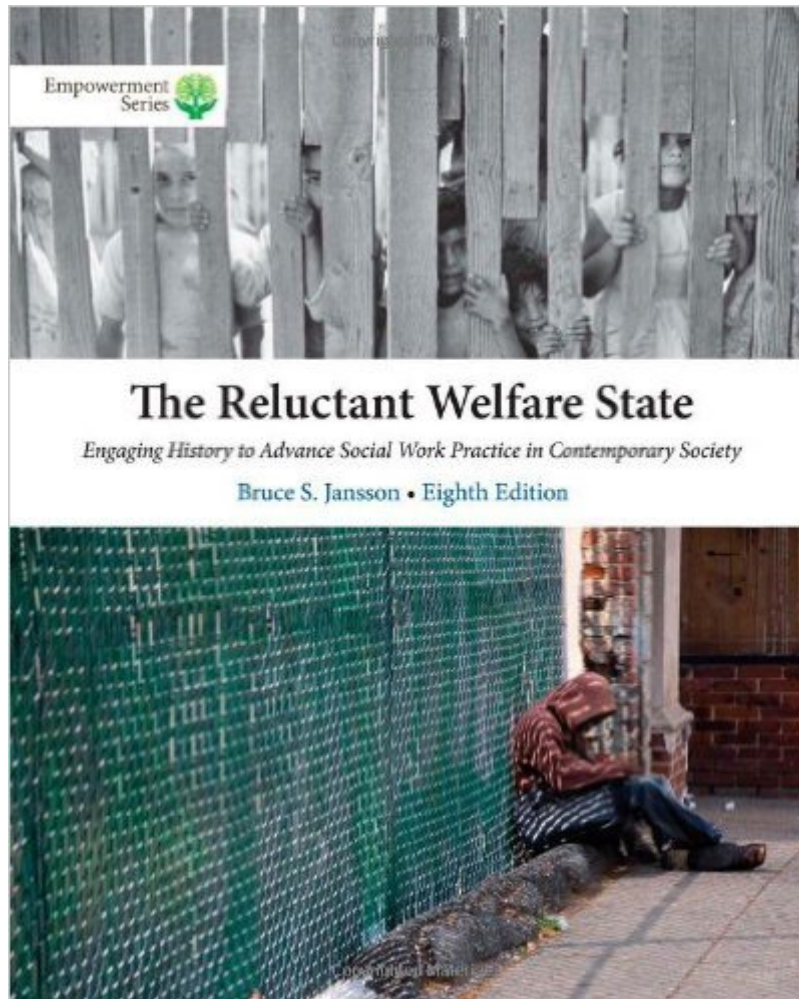


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# Brooks/Cole Empowerment Series: The Reluctant Welfare State (Book Only)



## Synopsis

Written in clear, lively prose, this highly respected book analyzes the evolution of the American welfare state from colonial times to present. The author examines how social welfare policy connects to an empowerment perspective, by showing how African Americans, Latinos, women, gays and lesbians, Asian Americans, Native Americans, the elderly, the poor, and other vulnerable populations, as well as social reformers, have achieved progressive reforms through policy advocacy. Part of the BROOKS/COLE EMPOWERMENT SERIES, THE RELUCTANT WELFARE STATE, 8th Edition, aims to help readers develop the core competencies and practice behaviors outlined in the 2008 Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) set by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bruce Jansson is a major scholar in this field, his book, *The Sixteen Trillion Dollar Mistake*, is an extraordinarily valuable analysis of federal finances. This book is a very comprehensive history of our welfare system, meant as a textbook but useful to anyone interested in this subject. Jansson has a definite point of view but is not biased, he has done great research and writes with objectivity. It would be very difficult to find anyone better. The index is extremely useful for finding particular issues and subjects, it illustrates how extensive the research was. Other books on related subjects: Atkinson, Anthony B., *Inequality: What Can Be Done?*, Harvard University Press,

2015 Bourguignon, François, Thomas Scott-Railton, *The Globalization of Inequality*, Princeton University Press, 2015) Deaton, Angus, *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*, Princeton University Press, 2013 Greenhouse, Steven, *The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker*, Anchor; Reprint edition, 2009 Hays, Sharon, *Flat Broke with Children: Women in the Age of Welfare Reform*, Oxford University Press, 2004 Lareau, Annette, *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*, 2nd Edition with an Update a Decade Later, University of California Press; Second Edition, With an Update a Decade Later edition, 2011 Pickett, Kate and Richard Wilkinson, *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*, by Bloomsbury Press, Reprint edition, 2011 Putnam, Robert D., *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, Simon & Schuster, 2015 Roth, Alvin E., *Who Gets What and Why: The New Economics of Matchmaking and Market Design*, Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 Stiglitz, Joseph E., *The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2013 Midwest Independent Research <http://mwir-improvements.blogspot.com/>

While this book improved slightly as it moved forward in time there are two major complaints about it. First is that it's highly disorganized. The author is tangential to the point where the content in each section often appears unrelated or much more related to content in other sections. The second is its bias. There are many times where the author is inconsistent in their message; praising a particular political party/ideology for something that is "brave" and then down playing the negative consequences of particular policies while doing the opposite for opposing political parties when the book indicated that they had taken nearly the exact same actions and stances. Additionally, for a book written about governmental policies, it appears that the author has a serious lack of understanding regarding political terms. He uses political systems, ideologies, economic systems, and other terms synonymous rather than using the appropriate terms for each case. This makes it difficult to follow the point that is supposed to be made because you have to decipher the author's re-defined terms for things as you go (which change depending on the author's context).

Great book, need to purchase it for my collection. I rented it and wished I had purchased.

I was hoping for more, but I suppose the welfare system isn't about happy times.

Easy to read and understand, excellent information.

Good shape and overall I am pleased with the book.

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