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Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy: Western States in the New World Order

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The social safety net is under strain in all Western nations, as social and economic change has created problems that traditional welfare systems were not designed to handle. *Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy* provides a definitive analysis of the conditions that are fraying the social fabric and the reasons why some countries have been more successful than others in addressing these trends. In the United States, where the poverty rate in the 1980s was twice that of any advanced nation in Europe, the social protection system—and public support for it—has eroded alarmingly. In Europe, the welfare system more effectively buffered the disadvantaged, but social expenditures have been indicted by many as the principal cause of high unemployment.

Concluding chapters review the progress and goals of social welfare programs, assess their viability in the face of creeping economic, racial, and social fragmentation, and define the challenges that face those concerned with social cohesion and economic prosperity in the new global economy. This volume illuminates the disparate effects of government intervention on the incidence and duration of poverty in Western countries. *Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy* is full of lessons for anyone who would look beyond the limitations of the welfare debate in the United States.

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