POVERTY, INEQUALITY, 
AND THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL POLICY
Western States in the New World Order

KATHERINE MCFATE, ROGER LAWSON,
and WILLIAM JULIUS WILSON, editors

“Extremely coherent and useful, this much needed volume is concerned with the current status of the poor in Western industrial states. Its closely linked essays allow comparisons between case studies and are often themselves cross-national comparisons. . . . The essays also comment on the meaning of globalization for social policy.”

—Choice

“Excellent and tightly integrated articles by a group of prominent international scholars. . . . A timely and important book, which will surely become the basic reference point for all future research on inequality and social policy.”

—Contemporary Sociology

The social safety net is under strain in all Western nations, as social and economic change has created problems that traditional welfare systems are not equipped to handle. Poverty, Inequality, and the Future of Social Policy provides a definitive analysis of the forces now fraying the social fabric and the reasons why some countries have been more successful than others in addressing this problem. 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 has more effectively buffered the disadvantaged, but social expenditures have been indicted by many as the principal cause of high unemployment. This comprehensive volume reviews the progress of social welfare programs, assesses their viability in the face of creeping economic, racial, and social fragmentation, and defines the challenges that face those concerned with social cohesion and economic prosperity in the new global economy.

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