The Dual Agenda: The African-American Struggle for Civil and Economic Equality. Dona Cooper Hamilton and Charles V. Hamilton.

children and families, health, mental health and education. For obvious reasons, readers of this type are rarely successful but the editors of this volume have managed to pull the material together in a coherent way. There are descriptive as well as analytical and empirical contributions which cover a wide terrain in a readable way. The book is up to date, lively and helpful and should be a useful resource for students of social policy.

Dona Cooper Hamilton and Charles V. Hamilton, *The Dual Agenda: The African-American Struggle for Civil and Economic Equality*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997. $ 24.95 hardcover.

Until recently, social policy research paid scant attention to issues of color, racism and discrimination. Reflecting its historical roots in class, labor and urban industrial politics, social policy has not until recently factored in the ethnic dimension. A major contribution was Jill Quadagno's *Color of Welfare* (1994) which demonstrated the critical role that race has played in American social policy. Hamilton and Hamilton take the subject further, making a powerful statement which should be heeded not only by academics but by policy makers as well.

Drawing on an extensive body of historical research, the authors contend that the civil rights struggle has been widely mis-interpreted as a stuggle to abolish racial segregation and discrim-ination. The role of civil rights organizations in campaigning both for social policy reform and for economic development has not only been ignored but regarded as beyond the legitimate scope of these organizations. Over the last sixty years, their attempts to promote an inclusive progressive agenda have been consistently thwarted by the widespread belief that theirs is a race-specific agenda concerned appropriately with on the abolition of discrim-ination.

Demonstrating the fallaciousness of this belief, the book doc-uments in rich and fascinating detail the efforts of civil rights organizations to promote a universalitic approach to social policy and, above all, to focus on the need for economic development strategies which will create employment, raise incomes and en-hance participation in the productive economy. This agenda, the authors insist, has not been race specific. Campaigns on welfare

and economic issues have sought to be inclusive, promoting the idea that social and economic development is needed to enhance the well-being of all.

The Hamiltons note that the dismissal of these efforts as race specific has caused enormous harm. For example, attempts to enhance social programs and create jobs in inner-cities are widely regarded by politicians and the public in general as sectional patronage. Consequently, efforts to promote social investment and employment creation are undermined and poverty, crime and despair remain endemic. While the task ahead is daunting, civil rights organizations need to transcend race, redouble their efforts and create coalitions with organizations that can promote these goals in a truly universal way. Perhaps the *Fairness Agenda* which is being promoted by the Democratic Party's Progressive Caucus can lead the way. This excellent book provides the historical and conceptual ammunition for a truly inclusive campaign of this kind.