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**Review of *Human Rights and Social Policy in the Twenty First Century*. Joseph M. Wronka. Reviewed by Roland Meinert, Southwest Missouri State University.**

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Joseph M. Wronka. *Human Rights and Social Policy in the Twenty First Century* Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1992. \$48.50 hardcover, \$22.50 paperback.

The central purpose of this book is to compare the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the U.S. Constitution and those of the fifty states. The book is an elaboration of the author's doctoral dissertation at the Heller Graduate School at Brandies University. The book is logically divided into six sections.

In the first section the author discusses the motivations that lead to completion of the research. They include both scholarly and personal ones. The second section traces the history of thought about human rights with an analysis of the relations between human needs and human rights. Distinctions are made between human rights as ideals, as enactments and rights as exercised. The main focus of this section is on a scholarly discussion of human rights at different stages of history from antiquity up to the creation of the United Nations in 1945. This historical analysis is not solely linear and only organized around the "tyranny of dates," but discusses overlapping themes and foci. The third section is a lengthy account of the debates that occurred within the United Nations as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was crafted and refined following World War II. Sections four and five of the book sequentially compares the Universal Declaration with the Constitution of the United States and then with the constitutions of the fifty States. Based on the analysis and comparisons the sixth section concludes with a discussion of the author's findings in terms of implications for social policy.

The author's presentation and integration of major lines of thought about human rights from antiquity to the present time is comprehensive and scholarly. The nature of human rights at different historical periods; as they were developed by several major social philosophers; and, as articulated within several religious traditions was well done. This section in particular would be of interest to social work educators who teach in the social policy area, as well as to social welfare administrators who have the responsibility for protecting the human rights

of persons who use social services. The author advocates that state constitutions should be brought in line with the Universal Declaration where variations occur in relation to economic social and cultural rights. However, a specific set of recommendations on steps as to how to bring this about are not included in the book. This reader did not find the section on the debates within the United Nations as the Universal Declaration was under development to be helpful in understanding the nature of human rights or how their condition could be advanced in the United States. This section did not shed light on the central purpose of the book. In addition, the section wherein the Universal Declaration was compared to each of the fifty states (147 pages) was tedious to read. Such elaborate coverage may have been appropriate for a dissertation but not in a book presented for public consumption. The author's conclusions about commonalities and differences between the Universal Declaration and constitutions of the fifty states should have been compressed into a shorter version. It is the reviewers opinion that the very excellent coverage of the nature of human rights' their historical development; and comparison with U.S and state constitutions could have been accomplished in about half the 259 pages of the book.

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Theda Skocpol. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*. Harvard University Press, 1992. \$34.95.

Over the last twenty years, sociological research into the emergence of the modern welfare state has increased rapidly. This research has generated competing theoretical accounts of the dynamics of social welfare. For example, while some studies attribute the emergence of national social policies to the social and economic changes brought about by industrialization, others stress the role of trade unions in successfully negotiating with reluctant governments for the introduction of social programs. Yet others contend that social programs are purposely