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The Juvenile Court and the Progressives. Victoria Getis

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through labor force participation but also through tax credits, asset accounts and the promotion of community capitalism.

Unlike many others who claim that capitalism offers the promise of ending poverty, Stoesz is not an advocate of *laissez faire*, arguing that purposeful policy measures are needed to address the problem. He is also unsympathetic to those who believe that behavioral regulation is required to achieve economic participation. He points out that many welfare clients are, in fact, economically entrepreneurial but that their efforts on the fringe of the formal economy do not result in sustained improvements in standards of living. The answer, he contends, lies in creating incentives that will more effectively integrate the poor into the capitalist economy, propel them into the middle class and provide them with the means to achieve the American Dream. On the other hand, Stoesz has little time for liberals and social democrats who continue to insist on social rights and unconditional welfare transfers to the poor. Indeed, he believes that they are largely to blame for the problems of welfare dependency and deprivation that have for too long characterized the world of the underclass.

While this book is unlikely to be acclaimed by Stoesz's social work and social policy colleagues, it makes an important contribution. Its articulation of a strategy of 'bootstrap capitalism' conceptually systematizes various programmatic proposals for economic integration that have gained currency in recent years. Stoesz provides a coherent rationale for these proposals and offers a normative perspective that can be contrasted with other approaches that seek to provide a new rationale for social welfare in an era of global, capitalist predominance. His systematization of these ideas should provide an opportunity for far-reaching future debates.

Victoria Getis, *The Juvenile Court and the Progressives*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2000. \$34.95 hardcover.

Today, the juvenile court is a commonplace judicial institution which exists all over the United States and in many countries around the world. It is generally viewed as a beneficial institution which meets the needs of children and protects young offenders from the punitive rigors of the adult criminal code. But, when the first juvenile court was founded in Chicago just over a century

ago, it was a radical innovation. Contrary to the way its history has been presented in many introductory textbooks, the juvenile court did not spontaneously evolve out of some predestined evolutionary tendency which brought about inevitable social improvements. Instead, it came about through the struggles and sustained efforts of a group of educated, middle class women who believed that the authority and resources of the state could be used to harness scientific knowledge to improve social conditions.

Victoria Getis has written an eminently readable and interesting book which documents in considerable detail the efforts of Jane Addams, Lucy Flowqer, Julia Lathrop and their many friends and colleagues to remove children from the adult courts and promote a new concern with child welfare. Her book also provides insights into the way progressives thought and functioned. She shows how their statism, pragmatism, political savvy and belief in the value of scientific knowledge fused to create a potent recipe for change. Although frequently ignored today and even dismissed, the achievements of the Progressives were prodigious. Getis shows how the campaign for the juvenile court was linked to subsequent progressive initiatives including mother's pensions, prison reform, the creation of the Children's Bureau and ultimately, social security.

She also shows how the court created opportunities for social science research that had profound consequences. Research into the young offenders who appeared before the court helped the development of child psychology, primarily through the work of William Healy, while studies of the social conditions that were linked to juvenile crime fostered the internationally acclaimed work of the Chicago sociologists. Social work was also influenced by these developments as caseworkers who believed in individual treatment competed with Chicago's social reformers and statisticians to shape the court's agenda.

Although this book focuses on the history of the juvenile court, its detailed account of the way its evolution was accompanied by the emergence of child psychology, the growth of social work, extensive sociological research and important social policy innovations makes for interesting reading. It also offers important insights into the achievements of the Progressive movement and the strengths as well as limitations of the reformist impulse.