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**Review of *Social Work and Social Justice: Concepts, Challenges, and Strategies* by Michael Reisch and Charles D. Garvin.**

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*The Future of Capitalism* is a highly informative and intellectually stimulating book. Its unique blend of economics and ethics, creative ideas for policy reform, and political advocacy from "the radical center" make this work highly recommended for students, teachers, and concerned citizens of our troubled world.

Edward U. Murphy  
Northeastern University

Michael Reisch and Charles D. Garvin, *Social Work and Social Justice: Concepts, Challenges, and Strategies*. Oxford University Press (2016). 448 pages, \$60.00 (hardcover).

This book addresses a missing piece in the social work literature. Although social justice is one of the core ethical values of the social work profession, few works have addressed how to integrate social justice into social work research, education, advocacy and practice. Part I of the book discusses historical and cultural conceptions of social justice, while Part II turns to an examination of social justice within the social work profession, including the historical evolution of social justice and social work, as well as social justice in social work practice with individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities, policy advocacy, research, and program evaluation. In this discussion, the authors not only address how social workers can achieve socially just ends in their practice, but they also emphasize the importance of maintaining socially just goals and processes to achieve such ends. Further, the book identifies a gap in the social work literature by addressing ethical challenges that may be faced when incorporating social justice into social work practice.

Reisch and Gavin have a great deal of experience and knowledge in integrating social justice into the social work profession. They recommend that this book may be particularly beneficial for social work educators preparing courses on social work practice, social policy, social work theory or philosophy, and courses that examine human behavior, multiculturalism or diversity. Because the book has such a wide scope, specific classes may benefit more from some sections of the book than others. Rather than a deep dive into how to incorporate social

justice in any particular area of social work practice, Reisch and Gavin aim to provide a respectably thorough overview of how to incorporate social justice into each type of social work practice. In this, they do provide an excellent introduction for those new to field.

In terms of the authors' underlying assumptions for social justice, they posit that social justice is never maintained indefinitely and that constant analysis of equality, justice and power is required to maintain socially just circumstances. They do a great job of emphasizing that incorporating social justice into social work is a complicated process that requires careful consideration at every stage and in each type of social work practice. Although the underlying assumption that social justice is never permanently achieved may seem overwhelming to those seeking answers for how to incorporate social justice into their work, they provide practical and clear examples and models for social workers to integrate socially just processes into their practice. Occasional case examples are also insightful, but they were not consistently featured, and some sections may have benefited from including case examples more consistently.

*Social Work and Social Justice* is an important touchpoint to initiate conversations on how to integrate such an extensive topic as social justice into social workers' everyday work. Although social justice is one part of the ethical foundation of the social work profession, few works have provided a thorough examination of how social workers may integrate this value into their practice. While future literature on the subject may seek to provide a deeper exploration of how to incorporate social justice into specific types of social work practice, this text provides an excellent contribution to the social work literature.

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