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to pay increased taxes to support expand the social services. Surprisingly, their study revealed that support for the welfare state extends to both universal and means tested programs. While the food-stamp program was the least popular, programs such as AFDC enjoyed considerable public and congressional support.

This is an important book which offers valuable insights into public opinion towards American social policy. It not only offers a lively discussion of the issues, but unlike many studies reporting survey results, it makes extensive use of the literature and specifically tests established theoretical conventions. Although the survey findings may be somewhat dated, its message remains pertinent.


This textbook, which has been written primarily for students of social work in Canada, offers a profoundly different perspective on social work practice than is commonly found in introductory American texts. Indeed, its emphasis on ideology, structural factors and macro-intervention may lead some to conclude that it should be prescribed for students of social policy rather than social work. But this would be a mistake, for the book's innovative attempt to introduce social work students to a political economy approach should be recognized and included in the social work curriculum. Transcending earlier publications on radical social work, Mullaly manages to provide a balanced exposition of different normative and ideological positions. This permits students to comprehend the world of ideology in a reasoned way, and to identify and understand diverse ideological positions.


During the 1980s, with the retrenchment of the welfare state, social programs have become increasingly decentralized, fragmented and uncoordinated. This trend characterizes both public