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John Tropman, Does America Hate the Poor? The Other American Dilemma. Westport, CT: Praeger Published, 1998. $59.95 hardcover.

After a period of neglect, research into the nature and causes of poverty is again being vigorously pursued by social scientists. Compared with the 1980s, when relatively few books on the subject were published, new material is becoming available with repetitive frequency. Much of this research has focused on the statistical correlates of poverty or on the life styles of poor people, particularly women. Much of it has been linked to policy developments in the field of welfare.

Tropman’s book takes a different approach, stressing the cultural values and beliefs that shape attitudes towards the poor. His thesis is that most Americans hate the poor in the same way that they express hatred towards ethnic minorities, foreigners and other ‘outsiders’. This hatred is culturally embedded in American society and a product of complex historical, psychological and sociological factors. The culture of ‘poor hatred’ also exerts a powerful influence in policy circles. While other industrial societies may be characterized as ‘welfare states’ because of their commitment to help the poor, America is an archetypal ‘poorfare’ state. Policies and programs directed at the poor have often been punitive and of limited effectiveness.

The author draws on opinion research undertaken during the 1960s and 1970s to support his contention. This was a time when social programs directed at the poor were expanding rapidly, and obviously had political support. However, the survey data show that most Americans did not support these programs and expressed negative attitudes towards those receiving aid. If attitudes were negative at that time, they are surely even more negative today.

Tropman believes that it is possible to initiate a process of value transformation that can change attitudes towards the poor. Through education, media campaigns and other activities, negative views about the poor can be replaced with positive, caring values. While few would be optimistic about the prospects of success, the book introduces a novel and interesting perspective on poverty in American society today.
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS
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JSSW welcomes a broad range of articles which analyze social welfare institutions, policies, or problems from a social scientific perspective or otherwise attempt to bridge the gap between social science theory and social work practice.

Submission Process: Submit manuscripts to Robert Leighninger, School of Social Work, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Send three copies together with an abstract of approximately 100 words. Since manuscripts are not returned by reviewers to the editorial office, the editorial office cannot return them to the authors. Submission certifies that it is an original article and that it has not been published nor is being considered for publication elsewhere.

Reviewing normally takes 120 days.

Preparation: Articles should be typed, double spaced (including the abstract, indented material, footnotes, references, and tables) on 8½ x 11 inch white bond paper with one inch margins on all sides.

Anonymous Review: To facilitate anonymous review, please keep identifying information out of the manuscript. Only the title should appear on the first page. Attach cover pages that contain the title, authors, affiliations, date of submission, mailing address, telephone number and any statements of credit or research support.

Style: Overall style should conform to that found in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Fourth Edition, 1994. Use in-text citations (Reich, 1983), (Reich, 1983, p. 5). The use of footnotes in the text is discouraged. If footnotes are essential, include them on a separate sheet after the last page of the references. The use of italics or quotation marks for emphasis is discouraged. Words should be underlined only when it is intended that they be typset in italics.

Gender and Disability Stereotypes: Please use gender neutral phrasing. Use plural pronouns and truly generic nouns ("labor force" instead of "manpower"). When dealing with disabilities, avoid making people synonymous with the disability they have ("employees with visual impairments" rather than "the blind"). Don't magnify the disabling condition ("wheelchair user" rather than "confined to a wheelchair"). For further suggestions see the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association or Guide to Non-Sexist Language and Visuals, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

BOOK REVIEWS
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