2006


David K. Androff

University of California, Berkeley

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of case study material. Hoefer effectively links advocacy to
generalist social work practice and shows how of social work
practitioners can engage in a variety of advocacy roles as a
part of their daily practice. He has also successfully condensed
a great deal of material into a slim and intelligible book. The
book should be widely prescribed in social work courses and
should also serve as an important resource for practitioners. It
is a readable and helpful addition to the limited literature on
the subject.

Katherine van Wormer, Introduction to Social Welfare and Social
Work: The U.S. in Global Perspective. Belmont, CA:

Social work is, increasingly, an international profession.
The pressures of globalization exacerbate social problems ev-
erywhere as well as connect those working to alleviate human
suffering in the global community. As such, international social
work has in recent years become a new subfield within the dis-
cipline. However, it is too often treated as an additional field of
study, outside of traditional social work, instead of providing
a contemporary perspective touching each one of social work’s
populations, policy concerns, and values. Social work’s rele-
vance to today’s most pressing issues requires a broadening of
the scope of the field.

This book is, in part, an update of the author’s earlier book,
Social Welfare: A World View and a response to recent dramatic
international events impinging upon the welfare of vulnerable
populations. It is a welcome continuation of her international
refashioning of the basic social work textbook. Part One, Social
Welfare: Structure and Functions, includes excellent concep-
tual definitions, an examination of American values that shape
policy choices contrasted with mainly Scandinavian alterna-
tives, and broad discussions of world inequality through the
lens of globalization. Van Wormer’s international analysis of
social problems reveals the global connections of oppression.
In the human rights chapter, van Wormer blends domestic and
international social issues together through a discussion of
social work’s role in working for justice. Part Two, Social Work
across the Life Cycle, deftly incorporates environmentalism, social psychology, and spirituality into a human behavior and the social environment framework. The last few chapters on child welfare, health and mental health, and the elderly read more like a standard textbook, despite including a range of international children’s issues like children soldiers and comparative health care policies including Cuban rural health care.

Timely as it is comprehensive, van Wormer’s book addresses questions such as what is social work’s relevance to the causes of and responses to 9/11. The core strength of this book is its attention to international issues and how they relate to social work. Although the history and policy areas are necessarily short on technical details, the author provides a wonderful synthesis of domestic issues and global concerns linked within the rubric of familiar social work topics.

Invoking the social work imagination, van Wormer successfully places American social work within a global perspective. This text poses a challenge to the American isolationism that too often restricts social work from its true potential. Suitable for undergraduate and graduate courses alike, this book should be required reading for instructors concerned with meeting CSWE’s mandate to prepare students for global social work practice. Breaking with the usual parochialism found in most introductory texts, van Wormer has made a valuable contribution to the task of training social workers to meet the growing challenges of a shrinking world.

David K. Androff, University of California, Berkeley