



Protecting Soldiers and Mothers

Theda Skocpol

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It is a commonplace that the United States lagged behind the countries of Western Europe in developing modern social policies. But, as Theda Skocpol shows in this startlingly new historical analysis, the United States actually pioneered generous social spending for many of its elderly, disabled, and dependent citizens. During the late nineteenth century, competitive party politics in American democracy led to the rapid expansion of benefits for Union Civil War veterans and their families.

Some Americans hoped to expand veterans' benefits into pensions for all of the needy elderly and social insurance for workingmen and their families. But such hopes went against the logic of political reform in the Progressive Era. Generous social spending faded along with the Civil War generation.

Instead, the nation nearly became a unique maternalist welfare state as the federal government and more than forty states enacted social spending, labor regulations, and health education programs to assist American mothers and children. Remarkably, as Skocpol shows, many of these policies were enacted even before American women were granted the right to vote. Banned from electoral politics, they turned their energies to creating huge, nation-spanning federations of local women's clubs, which collaborated with reform-minded professional women to spur legislative action across the country.

Blending original historical research with political analysis, Skocpol shows how governmental institutions, electoral rules, political parties, and earlier public policies combined to determine both the opportunities and the limits within which social policies were devised and changed by reformers and politically active social groups over the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

By examining afresh the institutional, cultural, and organizational forces that have shaped U.S. social policies in the past, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers* challenges us to think in new ways about what might be possible in the American future.

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Fernando Gallimore:

This Protecting Soldiers and Mothers is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who have always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This book reveal it data accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but difficult core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Protecting Soldiers and Mothers in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no guide that offer you world in ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt in which?

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