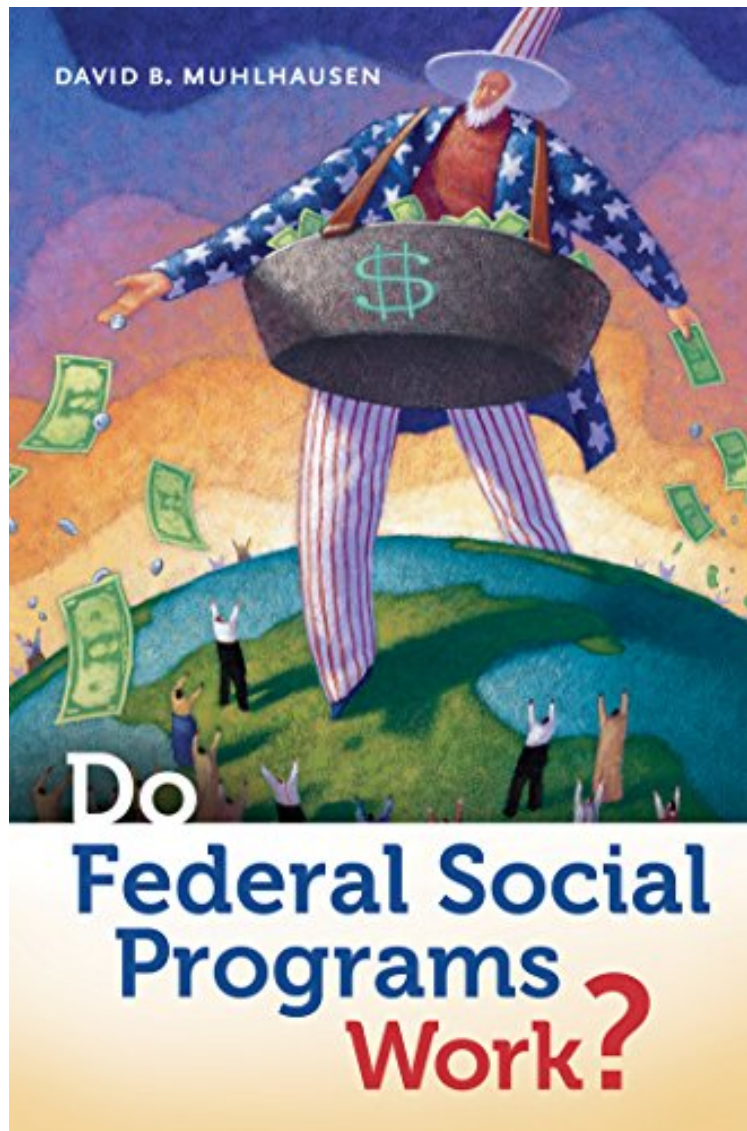


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Do Federal Social Programs Work?

David Muhlhausen

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David Muhlhausen : Do Federal Social Programs Work? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Do Federal Social Programs Work?:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Customer4 overall0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on the merits of Federal funded social enterprises.By B. WolinskyWhen the US Constitution was drawn up, it said that the Federal Government's job was to defend the nation, coin money, oversee Federal lands, and provide courts of appeal. Local police, health, education, local courts, and sewage would be the states' problem. Most states, in turn, declare those things to be the local government's problem. It wasn't until the 1900s that the idea of education, public health, garbage collection, and public assistance in

some form or another came to be seen as entitlements. But when it came to government funded services, the question was, is, and always will be "who's going to pay for it?" Some progressives, like John Dewey, argued that freedom is useless when you live in poverty. Court cases, like *USA versus Butler*, argued that the Federal government can spend all the money it wants. But hang on, what will the voters say? I can imagine the conservatives in the Deep South saying "tax, and I vote you out"; while the liberals in the "Blue States" will say "make it an entitlement and tax the rich to pay for it." It was FDR that started many of the Federally funded enterprises, like the Hoover Dam and the TVA, but at the same time, a recent book called "Rainwater Harvesting" shows that flood control and other environmental improvements can be done with no money, just a lot of manpower. Groups like Common Ground, which creates farms in empty lots, run more on labor than money. The book doesn't favor one side over the other. It makes good use of charts for data, education, health, etc. Unfortunately, it doesn't use case studies (like "The Poor Among Us") and doesn't discuss blue-collar apprenticeships, high school internships, or requiring municipal projects to hire local residents. Then again, a lot of these programs exist only on the local level. Perhaps it's easier for a city or town to manage local programs than for the Federal government to manage something across 2000 miles? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book By Michelle S Mr Muhlhausen is clearly well educated in his information. Highly informative and insightful.

Addressing an issue of burning interest to every taxpayer, a Heritage Foundation scholar brings objective analysis to bear as he responds to the important and provocative question posed by his book's title.

"In 1984, Charles Murray's *Losing Ground* awakened social scientists and policymakers to the fact that many government programs were not performing, and to the need for rigorous metrics of success and failure. Now comes David B. Muhlhausen with a book that advances that project by presenting an avalanche of inconvenient evidence." -- George F. Will, Author and Speaker "David Muhlhausen has brought together the results of the most important evaluations of federal social programs, laid out those results in full technical detail, and thereby done me and every other student of social policy an invaluable service. Anyone who wants to dispute his conclusion that federal social programs have failed must confront the evidence he presents--and that evidence is overwhelming." -- Charles Murray, WH Brady Scholar, American Enterprise Institute "A provocative work on an important public policy issue. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels." - Choice "In 1984, Charles Murray's *Losing Ground* awakened social scientists and policymakers to the fact that many government programs were not performing, and to the need for rigorous metrics of success and failure. Now comes David B. Muhlhausen with a book that advances that project by presenting an avalanche of inconvenient evidence." (George F. Will, Author and Speaker) "David Muhlhausen has brought together the results of the most important evaluations of federal social programs, laid out those results in full technical detail, and thereby done me and every other student of social policy an invaluable service. Anyone who wants to dispute his conclusion that federal social programs have failed must confront the evidence he presents? and that evidence is overwhelming." (Charles Murray, WH Brady Scholar, American Enterprise Institute) About the Author David B. Muhlhausen, PhD, is Research Fellow in Empirical Policy Analysis at the Heritage Foundation, a think tank in Washington, DC.