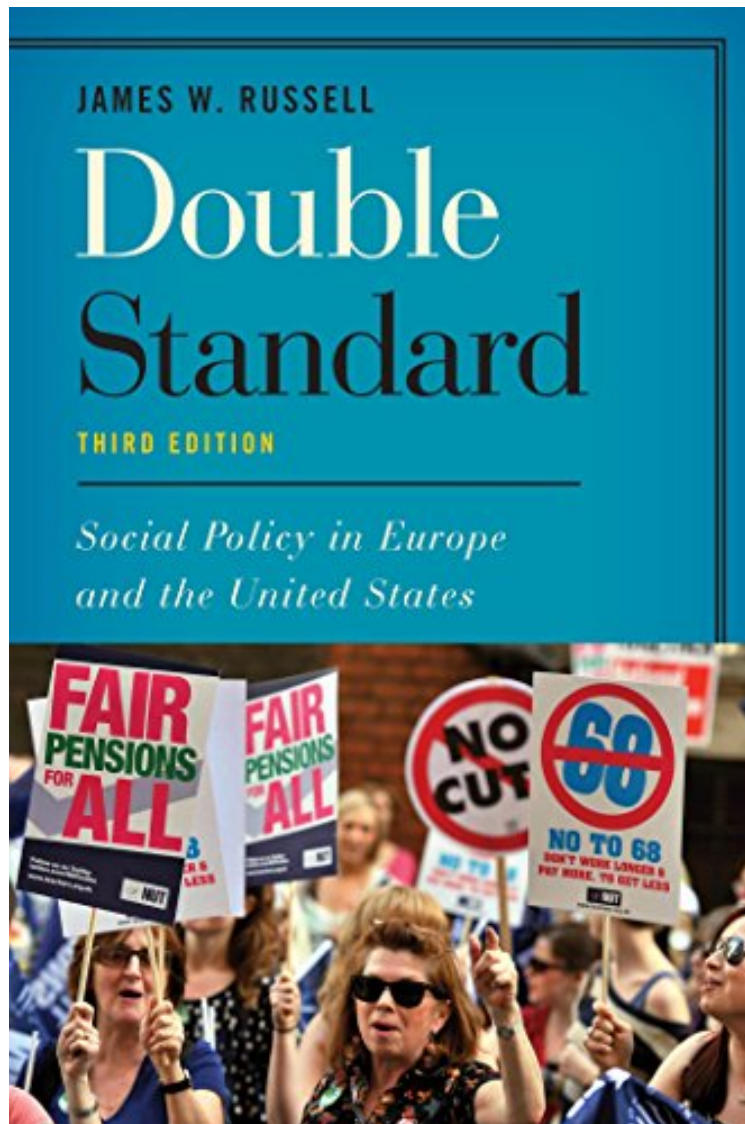


Double Standard: Social Policy in Europe and the United States

James W. Russell

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James W. Russell : Double Standard: Social Policy in Europe and the United States before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Double Standard: Social Policy in Europe and the United States:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Overall a easy read, very informative By Kevan This book is a compare and contrast between United States and Europe on social policy. This book goes in dept on each policy that the United States and Europe has implemented to help there citizen. He uses data, statistics, and facts to support his views. He also shows how religion has shape social policy, and theories. Overall a easy read, very informative, and I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in social policy aboard, activist and

psychology major! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Fresh and Refreshingly Broad Perspective
The book does a great job of presenting the contrasts that exist between the social policies of European nations, many of which have very successful socialist type systems, and those of the USA. The difference in outcomes is sometimes staggering, with income inequality, unemployment, and other major social problems worse in the USA than in most of Europe. It's a real eye opener.
0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars
By Customer

In *Double Standard*, James W. Russell shows how and why different models of social and welfare policy developed in the United States and Europe. The third edition comparatively examines how Europe and the United States have handled common social problems such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, family support, health care provision, ethnic and racial conflict, and crime. These different social policy orientations have produced disparate social ways of life, ways of life that are now in contention for the future of Western societies. Retaining its exceptionally clear exposition of the relationship between social policy and the history of social thought, social theory, and political ideology, the third edition contains new material on: The Affordable Care Act in the United States compared to European health care programs; The influence of Milton Friedman on the reduction of social spending and privatization of social programs; Paid vacation differences between Europe and the United States; A new Afterword on the continuing social effects of the 2008 recession (the "Great Recession") in Europe and the United States; A thorough updating of statistical information. The third edition of *Double Standard* is a thought-provoking and up-to-date exploration of the distinctive differences in social policy in the U.S. and Europe that helps students approach key issues through a new perspective.

James W. Russell has written a sober, well-informed, and temperate overview of the divergent development of social welfare programs in Europe and the United States. As these programs have become more important, the political battles over them have also become more heated. This book is a remarkably sensible antidote to the inflamed politics of the moment. (Frances Fox Piven, distinguished professor of sociology and political science, CUNY Graduate Center; author of *Poor People's Movements*) *Double Standard* remains an eye-opener and required text for all those committed to self-education and the education of others in the political economy of everyday life. (Levon Chorbajian, University of Massachusetts; editor of *Power and Inequality: A Critical Reader*) In this closely argued, detailed, and meticulous book Russell compares the development of social policies in the USA and in European states, pointing out areas where there are significant differences of approach but also those where one has borrowed from another. The strong historical and philosophical basis for Russell's analysis continues to make this a novel, engaging, and challenging addition to the comparative literature and an important source book for scholars of the US welfare system. (Gary Craig, professor emeritus, University of Hull, United Kingdom) Russell allows American students to see that there are a variety of forms of capitalism, some more humane than others. Kudos to Russell for making a complex topic understandable, even enjoyable, without over-simplifying. (Peter Dreier, E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics, Occidental College) *Double Standard* is accessible, responsible, historically-minded, and classically informed comparative social policy and political sociology. One can only hope others take Russell's example of how to write and do the social sciences. (Robert J. S. Ross, Clark University) *Double Standard* has become a welcome core reading in our "Social Policy: History and Concepts" course at the Boston University School of Social Work. In remarkably clear and succinct language, Russell sets forth the contributions of central social policy theorists and highlights critical differences in how the United States and European nations address social and economic problems. His treatment of the ideological "isms" is especially useful. (Robert B. Hudson, Boston University) In an era of rising income inequality and neoliberal policy solutions, Russell provides a timely, thoughtful analysis of policy differences in the United States and Europe. By the end of this book it is clear how various approaches to social policy are possible but carry 'dramatically different consequences' for individuals and society. (Jennifer Hook, University of Southern California) Praise from the first edition: James Russell restores my faith in sociology as the best line of inquiry into nagging political questions that too often get assigned to narrow-minded economists. We need books like this to combat academic provincialism as much as to correct social inequality. (John R. MacArthur, Publisher of Harper's Magazine and author of *The Selling of Free Trade*) It reads like an introductory textbook for students or an accessible social policy book for the politically interested.... By introducing the reader to the fundamental political conceptions and main social policy areas, the book provides a helpful introduction for those not familiar with social policy thinking and development. (Journal Of Social Policy) About the Author James W. Russell is Connecticut State University Professor of Sociology at Eastern Connecticut State University. He is the author of seven other books, including *Social Insecurity: 401(k)s and the Retirement Crisis*.