

1: Welfare Reform in the Early Republic: A Brief History with Documents by Seth Rockman

"Welfare Reform in the Early Republic is a superb teaching tool for undergraduates studying the operation of capitalism and the problem of poverty in American history. Rockman's collection covers welfare reform from multiple angles: elite perceptions of poverty; private and public institutions providing poor relief; and structural explanations.

Welfare Reform in the Early Republic A Brief History with Documents Seth Rockman In the decades following the American Revolution, elected officials, moral crusaders, and relief administrators scrutinized the public welfare programs that assisted thousands of impoverished people. Also included are headnotes to the documents, questions for consideration, an annotated chronology, suggestions for further reading, and an index. It guides them in interpreting relevant and fascinating primary source materials. In addition, the questions for consideration make excellent writing and discussion prompts. I have implemented it with great success for several years, and each group of students responds well to the variety and issues he addresses. That Rockman is so attentive to variables of gender and race while highlighting the factor of class only adds to the utility of this impressive document collection. The range of sources included from poorhouse records to polemics by labor activists invites students to engage with a diversity of perspectives. It is not only essential reading for anyone interested in the lives of those at the economic margins of the early American republic, but it also raises questions about class, poverty, social policy, and moral responsibility that continue to resonate today. The book is expertly designed to combine primary sources including political speeches, almshouse records, and religious tracts with insightful historical context for any course on American social and economic history. I have had great success with this book in my own classroom, and recommend it highly. Of Intellectually and Morally Neglected Children, c. The Friendly Society of St. Letter to Graduates of the House of Refuge, Rules for the Government of the New York Almshouse, Rules and Regulations of the Salem Almshouse, The Boston House of Industry, Inmates of the Baltimore Almshouse, June Report of the Trustees of the Baltimore Almshouse, Rights of Man to Property, Thomas Skidmore Address to the Wealthy of the Land, Mathew Carey

2: Staff View: Welfare reform in the early republic :

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Research Research Overview Seth Rockman is a specialist in Revolutionary and Early Republic United States history, with a focus on the relationship of slavery and capitalism in American economic and social development. The histories of race, labor, and social welfare are central to his research. Rockman supervised undergraduate research for the University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice, and is now conducting his own research on the relationship of Northern manufacturing to the plantation economies of the South. Research Statement Trained broadly as an early Americanist, I am interested in three historical trajectories that converged in the late-eighteenth century: Integrating economic, labor, and cultural history, my work explores the social experience of economic change in the decades surrounding the American Revolution. *Scraping By* situates enslaved mariners, white seamstresses, Irish dockhands, free black domestic servants, and native-born street-sweepers in the same labor market, on the same jobsites, and ultimately within the same political economy of early republic capitalism. As a "labor history of unskilled labor" and one of the first studies to consider such diverse workers side-by-side, *Scraping By* explores how race, sex, nativity, and legal status determined the opportunities and vulnerabilities of working families. *Scraping By* is fundamentally a study of capitalism and class in the post-Revolutionary US. In advance of the book, I have published several stand-alone essays on 1 integrating slavery into histories of capitalism, and 2 the viability of class analysis for the early republic United States. This work suggests that at a time when issues of globalization, free trade, corporate accounting, and fair labor practices dominate the headlines, economic history is too important to be left to traditional economic historians. Eschewing social-scientific models of human behavior and market mechanisms, I propose a history of American capitalism that recognizes the cultural and social forces that constitute "the market" and shape a multiplicity of human responses to economic stimuli. My new book focuses on objects manufactured in the North for use on plantations in the American South. At the intersection of business history and material culture studies, I consider the multiple meanings of hoes, blankets, and machetes as they moved great distances and fell into different hands. These artifacts illuminate issues of slave resistance, abolitionism, business ethics, technological innovation, and Southern nationalism, while also situating entrepreneurs, factory laborers, planters, and slaves in the same narrative of economic development. By following "plantation goods" from production to consumption, it is possible to see the simultaneity of opportunity and oppression in American history. The conference generated a volume of essays which appeared in the Early American Studies series at University of Pennsylvania Press in Funded Research AY Yale University Press, , Temple University Press, , *An Industrial History of the Blackstone Valley*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Pennsylvania State University Press, , *Welfare Reform in the Early Republic: Maryland Historical Society*, ,

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"Welfare Reform in the Early Republic is a superb teaching tool for undergraduates studying the operation of capitalism and the problem of poverty in American.

4: Table of Contents: Welfare reform in the early republic :

Welfare Reform in the Early Republic Words Feb 26th, 4 Pages People contributed to helping the poor because it was in their eyes seen as a moral obligation, a religious duty, or financial responsibility.

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Table of Contents: Introduction: Poverty "in a land flowing with milk and honey." Poor relief in early America ; The growing problem of poverty and its victims ; Religious reform and moral benevolence ; Public responsibility for the poor ; Structural solutions for poverty ; The legacy of welfare reform ; A note about the text.

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