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POVERTY

Sources for the Study of Economic Inequality and its Social Consequences

General Editor: Francesco Cordasco, *Montclair State College*

Human need is a continuing reality discovered or rediscovered by each successive generation. Yet the belief that want is as unnatural as it is unnecessary, man-made and not ordained, did not find widespread acceptance until the last century when social thought and popular opinion brought about a gradual shift from a fatalistic and apologetic to a critical and constructive view towards poverty, its meaning, its causes and its effects.

Certainly an understanding of the growth of factual information about social conditions, the changing attitudes toward poverty, the experiences and influences which led to the enactment of reforms is of clear relevancy to the contemporary problem of poverty in American society and the massive programs now being mounted to meet the urban crisis.

This collection brings together basic sources to articulate a composite picture of poverty and the urban experience. Although the emphasis is on the American experience, works far-ranging and diverse in origin and focus are brought together, all commonly anchored in a study of a reaction to poverty as part of the human experience.

The collection includes representative works on

- I. Portraits of the poor.
- II. The study of poverty on a scientific basis.
- III. The lives and work of social reformers.
- IV. Religion, the secular city and social reform.
- V. The settlement house, charity movements and philanthropic efforts.
- VI. The history of the poor law.
- VII. Immigration and the life of ethnic subcommunities.
- VIII. Education and the child of poverty.

Poverty will provide libraries with a basic collection of material for scholars and students in the social and behavioral sciences: such a collection can form the essential corpus out of which meaningful constructs in historical perspective can be fashioned and addressed to contemporary urban and social ills.



