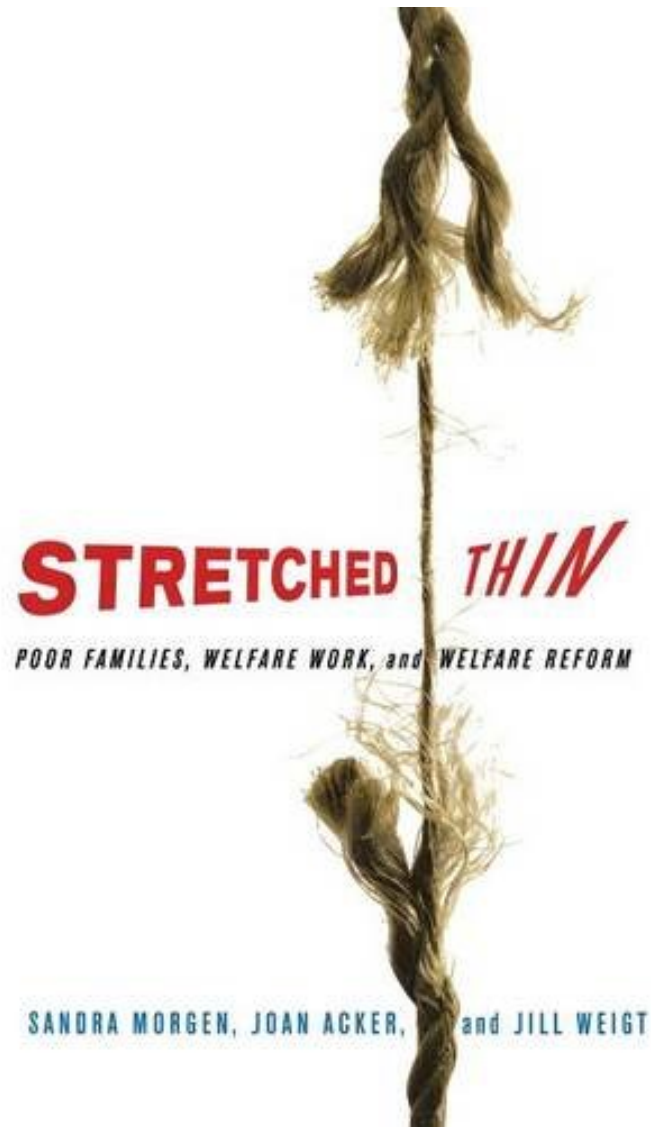


[Free and download] Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform

Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform

Sandra Morgen, Joan Acker, Jill Weigt
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Sandra Morgen, Joan Acker, Jill Weigt : Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A LIBERAL LOOK AT WELFARE REFORM THAT TRIES TO BE BALANCED SOMETIMES SUCCEEDS IN ITS EFFORT. By AUTISTIC WEREWOLF Welfare reform was sorely needed. Generations of able bodied people sitting home collecting checks for doing absolutely nothing was an

abomination that needed ending. Of course many people will rate me badly for saying that but, I don't live based on approval rates. Once you get past the liberal dusting of pro-welfare cry baby bias, *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* speaks effectively to the many conflicting interests that pull and challenge the case workers and welfare clients alike. *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* shows how much of welfare reform is art of fuzzy accounting, plays on words that are the stuff of legend. *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* reveals how welfare reform is more about getting people off welfare by any means possible then showing off the lower welfare rolls as indicative of success. *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* reveals that most of the so called reductions in welfare roles is achieved by skillful use of political blue smoke and mirrors designed to fool the public into thinking Welfare reform worked. Unfortunately welfare reform takes us square into discussions of poverty and minimum wage and the capitalist power structure never wants to talk minimum wage because that's the republicans dirty little secret. *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* shows how many of these welfare folks are ladies who get pushed off welfare only to be forced into slave wage jobs working for giant corporations who make HUGE PROFITS by exploiting their workers. Welfare recipients are not stupid. If a jobs that paid a living wages that could lift them out of poverty were available the line to get jobs would stretch around a large city block 25 times. Slave wages like the "federal minimum wage" are designed to be birth control for the poor ignorant unwashed masses. Society suggests if you can't afford to have and care for babies \ family you should not have children. It's no secret that you can't raise a family on the slave wage of minimum wage. So what's a poor person to do not have children just because; lots of rich fat cats and corporations have made it next to impossible for poor people to raise families. Well the answer to the capitalist establishment is HELL NO, we the poor will NOT stop having children just because; the capitalist infrastructure is not designed to let poor people build families. Poor people need the security and love that comes from family to sustain their minds, hearts, bodies and humanity. No corporation's misery wages will prevent people from building families so welfare was and is needed. However welfare is going away and it should since paying people to do nothing is always dead wrong. However good people should be allowed to build families. Getting paid a living wage is part of the equation for building strong families even if the BIG corporations AND THE SUPER RICH hate hearing this FACT. In an ideal world there should be no welfare at all, just living wage jobs and people with the skills to fill them. The profit margins for mega corporations will be smaller if a living wage is paid employees but, their supersized profits could use a little trimming. *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* touches on all the elements I shared here and then some. My only problem with *Stretched Thin: Poor Families, Welfare Work, and Welfare Reform* it seems to advocate keeping part of the welfare system and I disagree. For able bodied people we should do away with food stamps (SNAP), Public Housing, Section 8 the entire alphabet soup of entitlement agencies with the exception of Social Security for the disabled, old and retired. People should be able to work at living wage jobs that let them raise a modest sized family above the poverty line. I'd say a living wage job lets one earner raise two children above the poverty line. Having more than two children on a living wage job income is stupid and reckless to the point I'd call it child abuse. there are means to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Those who choose not to avail themselves of such birth control means should be on their own without any welfare type support. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EXCELLENT By P. Fernandez Kelly One of the best accounts of the effects of so-called "welfare reform" on impoverished people. Indispensable to those seriously interested in finding new ways to correct historical sins.

When the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act became law in 1996, the architects of welfare reform celebrated what they called the new "consensus" on welfare: that cash assistance should be temporary and contingent on recipients' seeking and finding employment. However, assessments about the assumptions and consequences of this radical change to the nation's social safety net were actually far more varied and disputed than the label "consensus" suggests. By examining the varied realities and accountings of welfare restructuring, *Stretched Thin* looks back at a critical moment of policy change and suggests how welfare policy in the United States can be changed to better address the needs of poor families and the nation. Using ethnographic observations, in-depth interviews with poor families and welfare workers, survey data tracking more than 750 families over two years, and documentary evidence, Sandra Morgen, Joan Acker, and Jill Weigt question the validity of claims that welfare reform has been a success. They show how poor families, welfare workers, and welfare administrators experienced and assessed welfare reform differently based on gender, race, class, and their varying positions of power and control within the welfare state. The authors document the ways that, despite the dramatic drop in welfare rolls, low-wage jobs and inadequate social supports left many families struggling in poverty. Revealing how the neoliberal principles of a drastically downsized welfare state and individual responsibility for economic survival were implemented through policies and practices of welfare provision and nonprovision, the authors conclude with new recommendations for reforming welfare policy to reduce poverty, promote economic security, and foster shared prosperity.

"This is a wonderfully thoughtful and illuminating book. For more than a decade, Sandra Morgen, Joan Acker, and Jill

Weigt peered into the workings of the Oregon welfare system after the implementation of the draconian reform of 1996. The result is a closely observant picture of just what went on. We learn about the real human costs to mothers and children of the much-heralded shift to 'work first' and 'personal responsibility.' We also learn about the pressures on the staff of the local agencies as they tried to adapt a neoliberal policy designed in Washington to the exigencies of the lives of the poor and troubled people they were mandated to help."Frances Fox Piven, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, coauthor (with Richard Cloward) of *Regulating the Poor and Poor People's Movements*"*Stretched Thin* is a tour de force. It proves that the best scholarship makes for good politics. The story is sobering, but presented in highly accessible prose and based on stunning empirical research. It tells us all we need to know about neoliberal social welfare policy today: it fails to deliver for the poor. Here is engaged scholarship at its best. Read it and weep!"Sanford Schram, author of *Welfare Discipline: Discourse, Governance, and Globalization*"A stunning dialogue between ethnography and poverty policy, *Stretched Thin* takes risks to chronicle the messy moral incongruities that lay at the basis of welfare reform. Sandra Morgen, Joan Acker, and Jill Weigt urge us to face the myths we so readily accept about work, family, and poverty. They have written a classic that will stand the test of time."Carol Stack, author of *All Our Kin* and *Call To Home*