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978-0-521-18885-2 - Poor Relief and Welfare in Germany from the Reformation to World War I

Larry Frohman

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Poor Relief and Welfare in Germany from the Reformation to World War I

This account of poor relief, charity, and social welfare in Germany from the Reformation through World War I integrates historical narrative and the theoretical analysis of such issues as social discipline, governmentality, gender, religion, and state formation. It analyzes the changing cultural frameworks through which the poor came to be considered as needy; the institutions, strategies, and practices devised to assist, integrate, and discipline these populations; and the political alchemy through which the middle classes attempted to reconcile the needs of the individual with those of the community. While the Bismarckian social insurance programs have long been regarded as the origin of the German welfare state, this book shows how preventive social welfare programs – the second pillar of the welfare state – evolved out of traditional poor relief, and it emphasizes the role of Progressive reformers and local, voluntary initiative in this process and the impact of competing reform discourses on both the social domain and the public sphere.

Larry Frohman is assistant professor of history at State University of New York at Stony Brook. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

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LARRY FROHMAN

State University of New York at Stony Brook



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