Chapter 19

Making Social Policy
Making Social Policy

- The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy
- The Expansion of Social Policy in the Twentieth Century
The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy

- Most Western governments expanded their social programs long before the United States did.
- Rather grudgingly, state governments in the early twentieth century extended relief to low-income groups.
- From its founding, the government took care of its military veterans.
The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy

The Goals of Social Policy

- The first goal is to protect citizens against social and economic problems by creating a social safety net.

- The second goal of federal social policy is to raise the quality of life for all.
The Role of the Federal Government in Social Policy

Types of Protection

- Public Assistance
  - First aid programs created in the late 1800s to help poor single mothers & their children
  - Means-tested entitlement programs

- Social Insurance
  - Eligibility based on past service
  - Eligibility based on prepayments
The Expansion of Social Policy in the Twentieth Century

**New Deal**
- Help for older citizens
- Help for the poor
- Help for the disabled and unemployed

**Great Society**
- Food stamps
- Head start
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Supplemental security income
- Housing assistance
<table>
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<th>Major Public Assistance Programs, 2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>$275 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food stamps (now called SNAP)</td>
<td>72 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earned Income Tax Credit</td>
<td>50 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income</td>
<td>44 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family support payments to states</td>
<td>22 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child nutrition</td>
<td>17 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Children’s Health Insurance Program</td>
<td>9 billion</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Insurance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>$721 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>520 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment insurance</td>
<td>190 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability insurance</td>
<td>124 billion</td>
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Why is social security so expensive, and why is its cost increasing rapidly?

FIGURE 19–1 Unemployment in the United States.

How does the unemployment rate today compare to the average rate over the last decade? What percentage unemployment is acceptable?

The Expansion of Social Policy in the Twentieth Century

Reforming Welfare

- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in 1996, which replaced the New Deal’s AFDC with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- The Federal Role in Health Care
  - The surgeon general oversees researchers at National Institute of Health (NIH)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Health care costs have nearly quadrupled since 1970

- The Federal Role in Education
  - Northwest Ordinance of 1785 set aside land in every township for a public school
  - Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1965)
  - No Child Left Behind (2002)

- The Federal Role in Crime Control
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - Drug Enforcement Agency
  - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
  - USA PATRIOT Act of 2001
Figure 19-2: Changing Priorities in the Federal Budget.

What parts of the federal government have seen the greatest change over the last 50 years? What explains these changes in spending priorities?

FIGURE 19-3 Where the Health Care Dollar Was Spent, 2008.

On what aspect of health care is the most money spent? How might you expect the new health care program to change where Americans go for preventive medical care?


The Politics of Social Policy

- Social policy is a major focus of American politics.
- Social policy will be part of the federal agenda far into the future.
- Citizens can influence social policy in several ways.