

IAED USA Webinar: Welfare Reform - Where Do We Go from Here?

Roger Wetherall
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Welfare Reform: Where Do We Go from Here?

2 PM, Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Dear

Lawrence Mead was the principal theorist behind the landmark welfare reform legislation of 1996 that was negotiated between Newt Gingrich and President Bill Clinton. It has been recognized as the most radical change in American social policy since civil rights. For the first time, the nation seriously required that most single parents on cash welfare should have to work as a condition of aid. The act drove around two-thirds of welfare adults off the rolls, mostly into jobs. Incomes rose and poverty declined, discrediting the views of many critics. It emphasized the importance of family stability and encouraged the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Professor Mead argues that the welfare problem remains a serious issue today, due primarily to rapid immigration from non-western countries which lack America's individualistic culture where prospering in a free but

competitive society is difficult. He offers both a sober analysis and a hopeful way forward to maintain the dynamism of American culture and economy.

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About the Speakers



Lawrence M. Mead
Professor of Politics and Public Policy, [New York University](#)
Lawrence has previously been a visiting professor at Harvard, Princeton, the University of Wisconsin, and twice a Visiting Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. He is the author of 13 books on poverty, welfare, and related issues in the United States and other rich countries. He is a leading scholar of the politics and implementation of welfare reform and also work programs for men. His many publications on these subjects have helped shape social policy in the United States and abroad. His new book *Birds of Freedom* will be published in 2025.



Alan Jessen
Moderator
North American Coordinator,
International Association for Peace and
Economic Development

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We look forward to your participation and engagement in this event.

Thank you,

Roger Wetherall

IAED-USA Coordinator

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International Association for Peace and Economic Development - USA

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