



## Caring for America: Home Health Workers in the Shadow of the Welfare State

By Hull Professor of Feminist Studies Eileen Boris, Professor of History Jennifer Klein

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this sweeping narrative history from the Great Depression of the 1930s to the Great Recession of today, *Caring for America* rethinks both the history of the American welfare state from the perspective of care work and chronicles how home care workers eventually became one of the most vibrant forces in the American labor movement. Eileen Boris and Jennifer Klein demonstrate the ways in which law and social policy made home care a low-waged job that was stigmatized as welfare and relegated to the bottom of the medical hierarchy. For decades, these front-line caregivers labored in the shadows of a welfare state that shaped the conditions of the occupation. Disparate, often chaotic programs for home care, which allowed needy, elderly, and disabled people to avoid institutionalization, historically paid poverty wages to the African American and immigrant women who constituted the majority of the labor force. Yet policymakers and welfare administrators linked discourses of dependence and independence-claiming that such jobs would end clients and workers dependence on the state and provide a ticket to economic independence. The history of home...



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