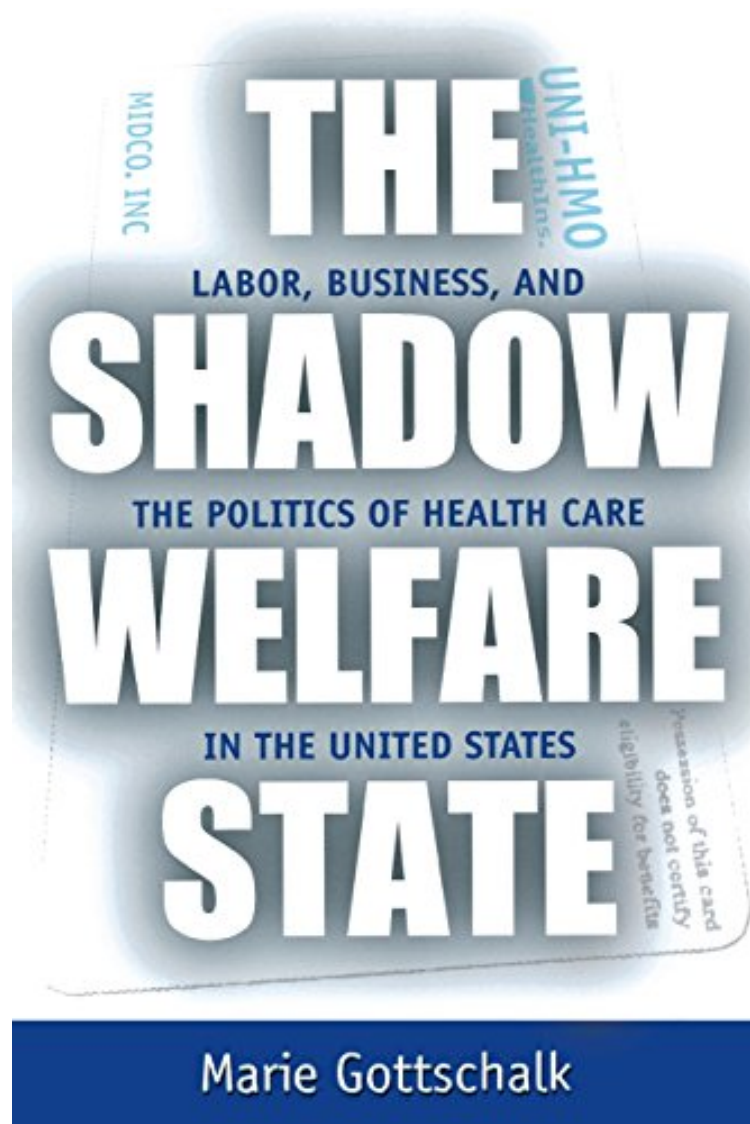


(Free) The Shadow Welfare State: Labor, Business, and the Politics of Health Care in the United States (ILR Press Books)

## The Shadow Welfare State: Labor, Business, and the Politics of Health Care in the United States (ILR Press Books)

Marie Gottschalk

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Marie Gottschalk : The Shadow Welfare State: Labor, Business, and the Politics of Health Care in the United States (ILR Press Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shadow Welfare State: Labor, Business, and the Politics of Health Care in the United States (ILR Press

Books):

Why, in the recent campaigns for universal health care, did organized labor maintain its support of employer-mandated insurance? Did labor's weakened condition prevent it from endorsing national health insurance? Marie Gottschalk demonstrates here that the unions' surprising stance was a consequence of the peculiarly private nature of social policy in the United States. Her book combines a much-needed account of labor's important role in determining health care policy with a bold and incisive analysis of the American welfare state. Gottschalk stresses that, in the United States, the social welfare system is anchored in the private sector but backed by government policy. As a result, the private sector is a key political battlefield where business, labor, the state, and employees hotly contest matters such as health care. She maintains that the shadow welfare state of job-based benefits shaped the manner in which labor defined its policy interests and strategies. As evidence, Gottschalk examines the influence of the Taft-Hartley health and welfare funds, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (E.R.I.S.A.), and experience-rated health insurance, showing how they constrained labor from supporting universal health care. Labor, Gottschalk asserts, missed an important opportunity to develop a broader progressive agenda. She challenges the movement to establish a position on health care that addresses the growing ranks of Americans without insurance, the restructuring of the U.S. economy, and the political travails of the unions themselves.

From Booklist  
Several solid studies of the failure of the Clinton health reform campaign of the early '90s attempt to assess the role of all the key players. Gottschalk, a University of Pennsylvania political scientist, focuses on the interaction of labor and business in that debate. Her relatively narrow emphasis sheds light on the nature of (what remains of) the nation's hybrid public/private safety net and on how interests, ideas, and institutions interact in forming U.S. social policy. Since the '40s, labor has been part of the key institutions of employment-based health insurance: Taft-Hartley plans, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and experience-rated insurance contracts. These institutions, together with the appealing idea of an "employer mandate" as a moderate approach and labor's (false) hope that business would support reform, pushed labor into a position that ignored the needs of millions of workers yet couldn't gain enough support to pass. A cogent, provocative analysis of a particular battle that also raises larger questions for the future. Mary Carroll  
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"Several solid studies of the failure of the Clinton health reform campaign of the early '90s attempt to assess the role of all the key players. Gottschalk, a University of Pennsylvania political scientist, focuses on the interaction of labor and business in that debate. . . . A cogent, provocative analysis of a particular battle that also raises larger questions for the future"  
Mary Carroll, Booklist  
"In *The Shadow Welfare State*, Marie Gottschalk recounts labor's half century-long fight for decent health care coverage through both collective bargaining and political action. More than most writers, she brings these two sides of the coin together to analyze both the fragility of the private welfare state, even for those who are covered by it, and the closely related political weakness of labor in the U.S."  
Susan Stanton, University of Pennsylvania, Political Science Dept. Labor Notes, September, 2000.  
"Gottschalk provides a thorough analysis of the political climate in which organized labor must operate."  
Luke Z. Fenchel, Research Associate, World Policy Institute. Boston Book, Vol. 7, Issue 7.  
"An explosively important book. . . . Marie Gottschalk's marvelous book . . . relieves us of the need to conjecture and hypothesize in trying to make sense of the little that we really knew of what was going on at the highest levels of the AFL-CIO ten years ago. She lifts the veil and at last we can all understand and share in the anger of those courageous union leaders within the federation who steadfastly stood firm for a universal, single-payer system of health care. . . . The working rank-and-file will ignore this book at their own peril."  
Townsend Walker, Sr. The Harbinger, October 17, 2000.  
"This very well written and engaging book touches myriad issues in the history of labor, social democracy, and American political institutions. . . . All labor scholars will find her book a rich source of analysis and information on a wide variety of topics."  
David Jacobs, American University. RI/IR, 2001, Vol. 56, No. 1  
"Gottschalk has written an incisive analysis of the failure of President Clinton's health reform proposal. . . Her account provides superior perspective on the debacle, because it roots the debate about employment-based health insurance plans in developments in labor-management relations and in the accommodation of leading Democrats to the business agenda that surged to the fore in the 1970s and 1980s. The book is written with verve and theoretical sophistication."  
Stephen Amberg, University of Texas, San Antonio. Industrial and Labor Relations, Vol. 54, No. 4, 7/01  
"This is a splendid book with a genuinely fresh perspective on American social policy. Marie Gottschalk makes important arguments about labor, about health care, and most important, about how to see the American welfare system. *The Shadow Welfare State* adds up to an important and exciting story. Bold new paradigms of social welfare do not come along often. Gottschalk does a wonderful job with both the big analytic picture and the many details that support her case. This is a winner."  
James Morone, Brown University  
"The *Shadow Welfare State* makes two important contributions to understanding the political activism of organized labor. Marie Gottschalk unravels the neglected but peculiar story of labor's role in health care reform and contributes to a more general understanding of labor's role in

American politics, both terribly important and very rarely studied area this book gets a big two thumbs up for identifying a major weakness in current scholarship."Lawrence Jacobs, University of Minnesota" To understand why the United States has no system of universal health insurance, you must read Marie Gottschalk's superb book. With clarity, wit, and passion she uncovers the tangled history that made the demise of the Clinton Health Plan both tragedy and farce."Nelson Lichtenstein, University of Virginia, author of Who Built America? Working People and the Nation's Economy, Politics, Culture, and Society