Great!

Reflecting an emerging consensus that social justice is a primary mission of the social work profession, this innovative text provides a thorough grounding in policy analysis with extensive coverage of policy practice and a unique emphasis on the broad issues and human dilemmas inherent in the pursuit of social justice. Organized in four parts, the book introduces several philosophical perspectives on what constitutes social justice, and identifies the values and assumptions reflected in contemporary policy debates. Part I provides a framework for policy analysis and policy practice, as well as foundation content related to the structure and role of government in the United States. Part II offers a theoretical framework for determining when a personal disadvantage is considered a social problem. It then focuses on social problems that constitute widely shared risks, including poverty, physical illness, mental illness, and disability. Part III introduces theories of discrimination and oppression and explores the challenges faced by vulnerable populations, including people of color, gays and lesbians, children, women, working Americans, and the elderly. Part IV offers a Glance to The Future, examining emerging policy issues such as inequality, incarceration as a means of social control, globalization, and international governance.

My Personal Review:
For years I have been searching for an introductory policy text that will give my BSW students a firm foundation without putting them to sleep. This book's explicit focus on social justice offers a powerful framework for understanding a wide range of issues, while its use of real case studies brings to life the human dimension of social policy. The first chapter of the text is the most difficult for my students, so I allow extra time and use the auxiliary resources on the Thompson website to be sure they master this abstract content.

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