

# The Failure of Government Policy Since 1945: Routledge Revivals



## The UK Equity Gap: The Failure of Government Policy Since 1945 (Routledge Revivals) by Chris Lonsdale

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Since the end of World War II, governments around the world have pursued a wide range of policies in an attempt to improve the lives of their citizens. These policies have covered a wide range of areas, from economic growth to social welfare to environmental protection. However, despite the best intentions of policymakers, many of these policies have failed to deliver on their promises.

In this article, we will examine some of the most notable failures of government policy since 1945. We will focus on three specific areas: economic growth, social welfare, and environmental protection. We will

argue that government policy has failed to deliver on its promises of prosperity, equality, and sustainability, and that a new approach is needed.

## **Economic Growth**

One of the primary goals of government policy since 1945 has been to promote economic growth. Governments have used a variety of tools to achieve this goal, including fiscal policy, monetary policy, and trade policy. However, despite these efforts, economic growth has been slow and uneven in many countries.

For example, in the United States, the average annual growth rate of GDP has been just 2.3% since 1945. This is significantly lower than the growth rates achieved in other developed countries, such as Japan and Germany. Moreover, economic growth has been concentrated in a few sectors, such as finance and technology, while other sectors, such as manufacturing and agriculture, have struggled.

The slow and uneven growth of the economy has had a number of negative consequences. First, it has led to a decline in living standards for many people. Second, it has made it more difficult for governments to provide essential services, such as education and healthcare. Third, it has increased the risk of social unrest and political instability.

## **Social Welfare**

Another major goal of government policy since 1945 has been to improve social welfare. Governments have implemented a wide range of programs to achieve this goal, including social security, unemployment insurance, and healthcare. However, despite these efforts, social welfare has declined in many countries.

For example, in the United States, the poverty rate has increased from 12.6% in 1945 to 15.5% in 2020. Moreover, the gap between the rich and the poor has widened significantly. In 2020, the top 1% of earners in the United States earned 20.8% of all income, while the bottom 50% of earners earned just 12.3% of all income.

The decline in social welfare has had a number of negative consequences. First, it has led to an increase in poverty and homelessness. Second, it has made it more difficult for people to access essential services, such as healthcare and education. Third, it has increased the risk of social unrest and political instability.

## **Environmental Protection**

A third major goal of government policy since 1945 has been to protect the environment. Governments have implemented a wide range of regulations to achieve this goal, including air pollution regulations, water pollution regulations, and land use regulations. However, despite these efforts, environmental degradation has continued to occur.

For example, global greenhouse gas emissions have increased by more than 50% since 1945. This has led to a rise in global temperatures and a number of other negative environmental consequences, such as more frequent and severe hurricanes, droughts, and floods.

The failure to protect the environment has had a number of negative consequences. First, it has led to a decline in the quality of life for many people. Second, it has increased the risk of future environmental disasters. Third, it has made it more difficult for governments to achieve other important goals, such as economic growth and social welfare.

In this article, we have examined some of the most notable failures of government policy since 1945. We have focused on three specific areas: economic growth, social welfare, and environmental protection. We have argued that government policy has failed to deliver on its promises of prosperity, equality, and sustainability, and that a new approach is needed.

We believe that the failures of government policy are due to a number of factors, including:

- \* A lack of understanding of the complex systems that we are trying to manage
- \* A tendency to focus on short-term solutions at the expense of long-term goals
- \* A lack of accountability for policy failures

In order to overcome these challenges, we need to develop a new approach to government policy. This new approach must be based on a systems-thinking approach, a long-term perspective, and a strong commitment to accountability.

We believe that a new approach to government policy is possible. We believe that it is possible to create a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable world. But this will require a fundamental shift in the way that we think about and implement policy.



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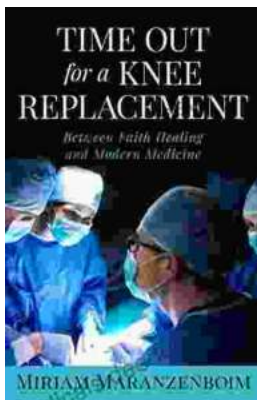
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