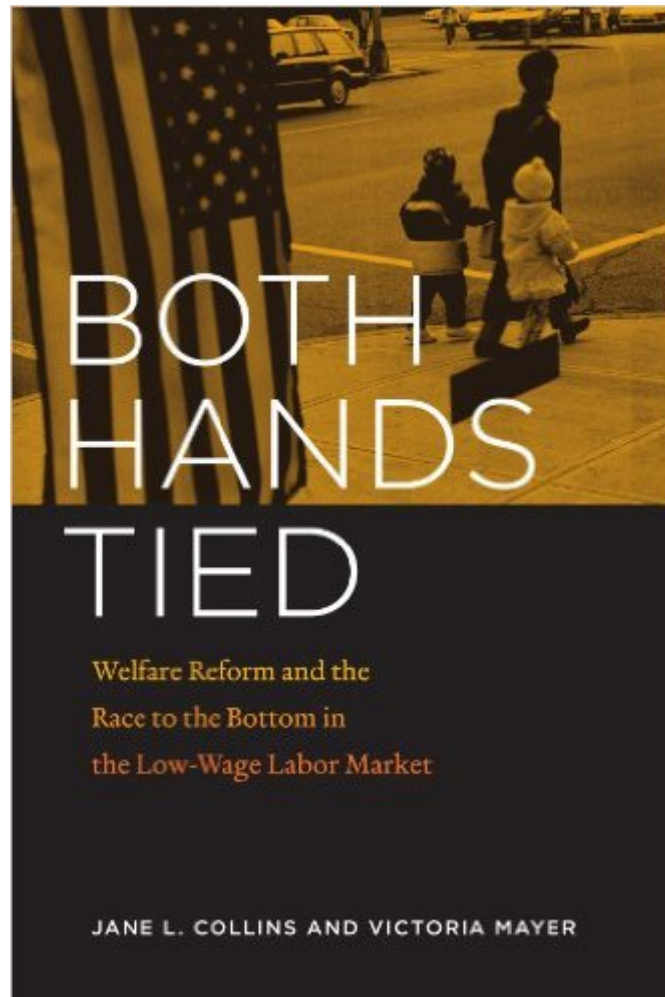


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# Both Hands Tied: Welfare Reform And The Race To The Bottom In The Low-Wage Labor Market



## Synopsis

Both Hands Tied studies the working poor in the United States, focusing in particular on the relation between welfare and low-wage earnings among working mothers. Grounded in the experience of thirty-three women living in Milwaukee and Racine, Wisconsin, it tells the story of their struggle to balance child care and wage-earning in poorly paying and often state-funded jobs with inflexible schedules—and the moments when these jobs failed them and they turned to the state for additional aid. Jane L. Collins and Victoria Mayer here examine the situations of these women in light of the 1996 national Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act and other like-minded reforms—laws that ended the entitlement to welfare for those in need and provided an incentive for them to return to work. Arguing that this reform came at a time of gendered change in the labor force and profound shifts in the responsibilities of family, firms, and the state, Both Hands Tied provides a stark but poignant portrait of how welfare reform afflicted poor, single-parent families, ultimately eroding the participants' economic rights and affecting their ability to care for themselves and their children.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Commentators have noted what a sham welfare 'reform' has been. BOTH HANDS TIED helps us see why that is, and appreciate the high cost of the retreat for all concerned....except the 'new' employers who have been given our support for offering less and less to their employees. It's a disgrace. When will our policies renounce hatred of the poor?

I have been fortunate enough to take a course with Prof. Collins at Wisconsin and this book only deepened my respect for her and her work. This is precisely the type of research that makes sociology such an important and dynamic field--understanding the effect social policy has on the way actual people live their lives.

Perfect item delivered quickly for a great price.

It waste my money to buy it. The book itself did not do anything wrong, I hate it because I was insane to sign up the course which needs this book and I get nothing from it. Sociology sucks!

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