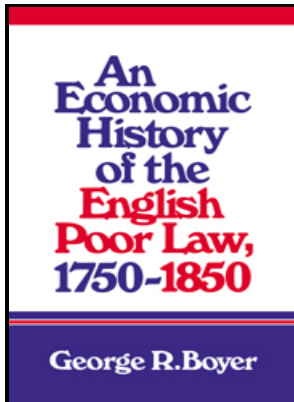


# English poor law, 1531-1782

Macmillan - The English Poor Law 1531



Description: -

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Poor -- Great Britain -- History.

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Studies in economic and social history English poor law, 1531-1782

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## Old Poor Law, New Poor Law

You can do this by ticking the relevant box at the bottom of the enrolment form or when enrolling online. An able-bodied beggar was to be whipped, and sworn to return to the place where he was born, or last dwelt for the space of three years, and there put himself to labour.

## English Poor Laws

In addition, the was passed in 1388 and placed restrictions on the movement of labourers and beggars. This change was confirmed in the the following year, with one important change: it directed the to assign to the impotent poor an area within which they were to beg. The reformed workhouses were to be uninviting, so that anyone capable of coping outside them would choose not to be in one.

## The English Poor Law, 1531

Thirdly, there was the problem of the generous or inefficient overseer: how should he be supervised and how could he be prevented from taking the easy course of providing casual doles or regular pensions to all who applied? More influential were revelations of mismanagement and cruelty in some houses, and the growing suspicion that most of them in practice inculcated the idleness and vice they were supposed to repress. Hoskins, 'Harvest Fluctuations and English Economic History 1620-1759', Agricultural History Review, 16 1968 , 30-1 , and B.

## The English Poor Law, 1531

In 1555, London became increasingly concerned with the number of poor who could work, but yet could not find work, so it established the first predecessor to the in the where poor could receive shelter and work at cap-making, feather-bed making, and wire drawing.

## The English Poor Law, 1531

Yet it also had advantages from the point of view of the poor: provided they had an acknowledged settlement, they had an entitlement to relief. The book's author, Henry Montagu, Earl of Manchester, certainly drew on the experience of his brother, a Northamptonshire justice, as well as on his own attempts as Lord Chief Justice to improve local administration, or 'quicken' it, as he liked to say. This workhouse in , dates from 1780.



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