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**Review of *Philanthropic Foundations for the Twentieth Century*.  
Joseph C. Kiger. Reviewed by Ralph Kramer**

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would attract and benefit the most affluent and most talented while neglecting everyone else.

Engel's well researched and clearly stated arguments for democracy and against the encroachment of the market ideology in schools has broader applications than simply public education. One notes that social agencies, both public and private, are increasingly involved in highly specific contracting for services and programs with decreasing emphasis on social reform and citizen involvement.

Many economic approaches would suggest that competition has no place in essential services that are not profitable but that can make all the difference in the quality of a civilization, such as education and social welfare. The increasing trends toward the corporatization of social welfare and the concomitant corporatization of public education suggest the potential for profits and profit motives in both. And, as Engel demonstrates, the long-term outcome is likely to be enhancement of the market and profits to the detriment of democratic processes and values.

Leon Ginsberg  
University of South Carolina

Joseph C. Kiger, *Philanthropic Foundations in the Twentieth Century*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2000. \$55.00 hardcover.

Originating mainly in the latter half of the 19th century, philanthropic foundations became a major influence in American life in the 20th. Although historically foundations are among the oldest social institutions, the last fifty years of the twentieth century constituted a takeoff period in the US for the use of private, tax exempt funds for public purposes. Described more elegantly by Martin Bulmer as "the institutionalization of knowledge-based social engineering," there was a ten-fold increase in their number—from 4000 to over 40,000—and a growth in their assets from \$3 billion to over \$300 billion. While the modern American foundation as a social invention is thus barely a century old, substantial scholarly work did not appear until the late 1950s, with notable books by F. Emerson Andrews, Robert Bremner, Waldemar Nielson, Barry Karl and Stanley Katz, among others. The opening of the Rockefeller Archives gave a further impetus

to research, and four types of foundations emerged in the US: independent (89%), company (5%), operating (5%), and community (1%).

As an introduction to the history and role of foundations in the US, this brief overview of 173 pages seems designed more for the general reader, rather than an audience of scholars or other professionals, although much can be learned from it. The book is well-written and contains substantial information which would be useful for those unfamiliar with the history, scope and function of philanthropic foundations in industrial societies.

The author, an emeritus professor of history at the University of Mississippi, began his career in 1952 as the research director of one of the first Congressional investigations of philanthropic foundations by the Cox Committee. This is his third book on the role of foundations in the US, and he has also served as the editor of two International Encyclopedias on Foundations, Learned Societies and Research Institutions during his fifty years of professional experience.

Concentrating on the dozen or so foundations with the largest assets, the eight relatively short chapters are clearly written, supported by notes, an extensive bibliography and a useful index. The author touches lightly on some of the most important features of the world of philanthropic foundations, and note their major strengths, as well as some of their more controversial features.

The opening background chapter summarizes in a few brief pages the history of foundations in the ancient and modern world in various countries. It is followed by a review of some of the leading studies and Congressional investigations of foundations in the US, including Walsh (1915), Cox (1952, Reece (1953–4), Patman (1961–72), Treasury Department (1965), Peterson (1969), and Filer (1977). It is notable that in the 25 years since publication of the Filer Commission's Reports, there has been no further major study of public or private foundations in the US, despite the explosion in their number and enormous wealth. The author believes that the absence of more recent research may be due to the positive response of some of the larger foundations to the criticism of the elitist composition of their governing boards, and to their greater sensitivity to the public's right to know. Subsequent chapters describe the processes of foundation growth

and change, the evolution of different types of organizational structures and their institutional development, the diversification and professionalization of staff, relationships with government, as well as parallel developments in other countries.

Serious readers who want more than a primer or an introduction to foundations, and seek a more substantial treatment of the subject, in addition to a more critical perspective, may wish to consult other studies such as the recently published *Private Funds, Public Purposes: Philanthropic Foundations in International Perspective* edited by Helmut Anheier and Stefan Toepler, (Klewer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York: 1999. Also, chapter 20 by Paul Ylvisaker in an earlier work *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook* Yale University Press, 1987, edited by W.W. Powell, is even shorter, but has greater depth, is also more nuanced, critical but balanced in its assessment of the values, potentials and problematic features of philanthropic foundations.

Ralph M. Kramer

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David Miller, *Principles of Social Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000. \$19.95 papercover.

Is life fair? Is life just? Contemporary theories of social justice address such fundamental questions by setting forth certain principles and normative conditions that would ideally result in justice and fairness. They are grounded in abstract philosophy and provide a critical conception of social justice that paints a utopian picture of society. They challenge us to promote greater fairness in our institutions. In *The Principles of Social Justice*, David Miller starts with the practical and real pursuit of social justice rather than beginning with the usual vague propositions about what social justice is. Thus, the book is inevitably grounded in disagreement. As the author points out at the beginning of the book, while people may be committed to social justice, they still disagree bitterly about it in practice.

This groundbreaking book explores this disagreement and its sources in order to understand how extremely divergent views about what is required to bring about justice might be reconciled when they stem from shared beliefs at a deeper level. The goal of