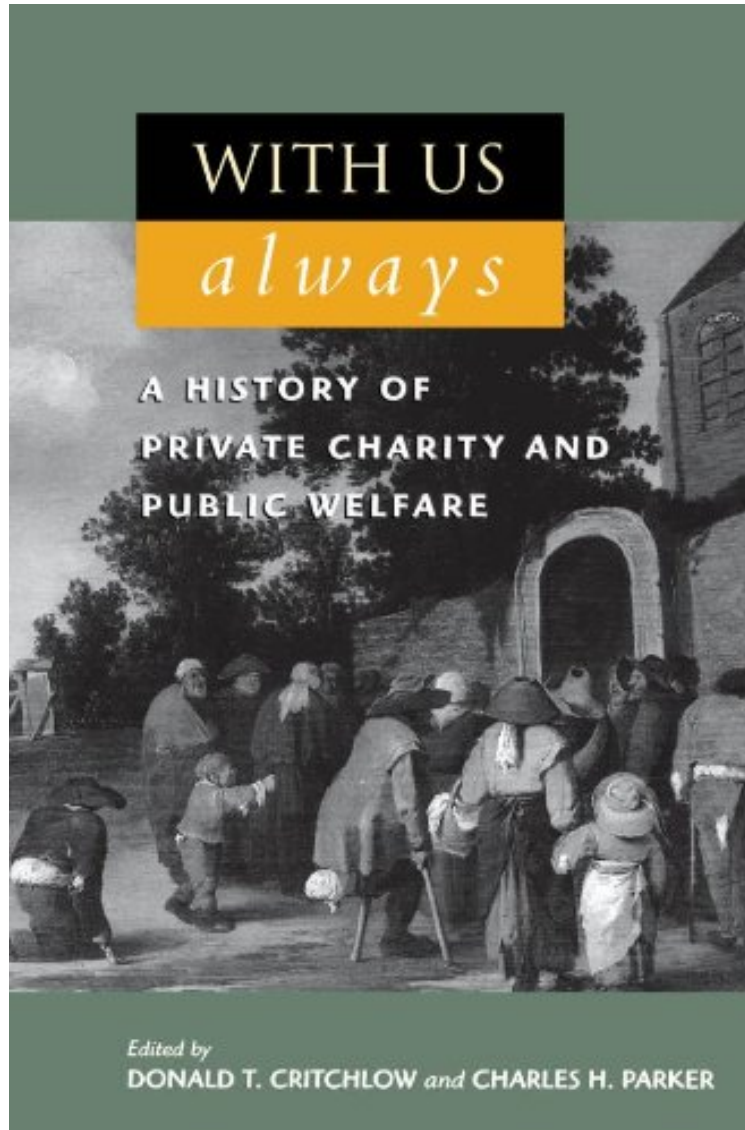


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Although welfare reform is currently the government's top priority, most discussions about the public's responsibility to the poor neglect an informed historical perspective. This important book provides a crucial examination of past

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Engaging... (Journal of American History) About the Author Donald T. Critchlow is editor of the Journal of Policy History and his books include *The Brookings Institution: Expertise and Influence in a Democratic Society*, *Studebaker: The Life and Death of an American Corporation*, and *Intended Consequences: Birth Control, Abortion, and the Federal Government*. Charles H. Parker is assistant professor of history at Saint Louis University and author of *The Reformation of Community: Social Welfare and Calvinist Charity in Holland*.