

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910299628903321
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Titolo	Family Economics and Public Policy, 1800s–Present : How Laws, Incentives, and Social Programs Drive Family Decision-Making and the US Economy // by Megan McDonald Way
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Palgrave Macmillan US : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2018
ISBN	9781137439635 1137439637
Edizione	[1st ed. 2018.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xix, 315 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Palgrave Studies in American Economic History, , 2662-3919
Disciplina	640
Soggetti	Economic history North America - Economic conditions Family policy Economics Culture Economic History North American Economics Children, Youth and Family Policy Cultural Economics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction: Public Policy and Family Economics in US History -- 2. Families: Economic Functions and Decision-Making -- 3. The Path of US Fertility: Micro Decisions with Macro Consequences -- 4. Private and Public Investments in Children: Creating the Human Capital to Meet US Economic Needs -- 5. Labor Force Participation and Home Production: Evolving Rights, Roles, and Opportunities for Women and Men -- 6. The Economics of Changing Family Structures: The Public Interest in Marriage and Family Formation -- 7. Intergenerational Economics: Public and Family Support for Retirees in US History and Looking Forward -- 8. Family Economics, Public Policy, and Inequality: Diverging Family Fortunes and the Risk to the US Economy.

This book explores family economic decision-making in the United States from the nineteenth century through present day, specifically looking at the relationship between family resource allocation decisions and government policy. It examines how families have responded to incentives and constraints established by diverse federal and state policies and laws, including the regulation of marriage and of female labor force participation, child labor and education policies—including segregation—social welfare programs, and more. The goal of this book is to present family economic decisions throughout US history in a way that contextualizes where the US economy and the families that drive it have been. It goes on to discuss the role public policies have played in that journey, where we need to go from here, and how public policies can help us get there. At a time when American families are more complex than ever before, this volume will educate readers on the often unrecognized role that government policies have on our family lives, and the uncelebrated role that family economic decision-making has on the future of the US economy. .

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