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Nota di contenuto	Chapter One – Approaches to Policy Analysis and the Stages Heuristic -- Chapter Two – The Background, ‘Setting the Scene’ -- Chapter Three - Problem Definition -- Chapter Four – Policy Formation, Part One: ‘Dual-Policy Transfer’ and the 1991 Child Support Act -- Chapter Five – Policy Formulation, Part Two: The Imbalance of Power within the Core Executive -- Chapter Six - The Flawed Legislative Process -- Chapter Seven – Implementation and the 1991 Child Support Act -- Chapter Eight - The Failure of the 1991 Child Support Act -- Chapter Nine – Conclusion.

“In this meticulous study, Leanne McCarthy-Cotter traces the unhappy career of the 1991 Child Support Act - one of several misbegotten effects of Britain's dalliance with 'Thatcherism'. In particular, she warns against the uncritical transfer of policy ideas which might have been successful in one socio-political context to another country, without consideration of the very different factors at play. Apart from its obvious value to serious students of British politics, this book also provides policy-makers everywhere with an invaluable 'not-to-do' list.”
—Mark Garnett, Lancaster University, UK This book assesses the 1991 Child Support Act and demonstrates how its failure was 'foreseeable' and 'foreseen'. It provides an understanding of the creation, and failure, of the Act, as well as providing an examination of the British policy-making process. The book re-introduces the 'stages approach' as an appropriate framework for examining policy-making in general, and analysing policy failure in particular. It draws on evidence gained through interviews, official documents, unpublished consultation responses, Parliamentary debates, and materials from pressure groups and think-tanks, as well as academic literature. The 1991 Child Support Act is seen as one of the most controversial and notorious policy failures in Britain. However it has received relatively little academic attention. An in-depth analysis of the policy-making process that led to the development and passage of this deeply flawed policy has largely been neglected: this book fills that gap. Leanne McCarthy-Cotter is Head of Policy for a UK trade union. Dr McCarthy-Cotter's research is in the fields of governance, policy, and legislation studies, particularly focusing on policy design.
