

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455244403321
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Titolo	Women & the welfare state // Elizabeth Wilson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Tavistock Publications, , 1977
ISBN	1-135-80075-8 1-280-31646-2 0-203-47926-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (209 p.)
Collana	Tavistock women's studies
Disciplina	300 361/.941 362.8
Soggetti	Women - Great Britain - History Public welfare - Great Britain Welfare state Women and socialism Socialism - Great Britain Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliography and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Contents; Introduction; Ideology welfare; Women, social welfare, social work in Victorian society; Women the family since the Second World War; Welfare since the War; Welfare in the twentieth century; Welfare war; Women welfare: past future; References; Subject Index; Author Index
Sommario/riassunto	Women and the Welfare State approaches the question of welfare policy from an entirely fresh perspective. In it the author argues that an appreciation of the way in which women are defined by welfare policies, and have been since the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, is essential to a true understanding of the nature of those policies and of the Welfare State. An important, possible the most important, function of welfare policy has been to promote and retain a particular form of the family; indeed, one can define the Welfare State as the State organization of domestic life.

