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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Redistribution in the Current U.S. Social Security System -- 2. Guaranteed Income: SSI and the Well-Being of the Elderly Poor -- 3. The Impact of Social Security and Other Factors on the Distribution of Wealth -- 4. Social Security and Inequality over the Life Cycle -- 5. Long-Run Effects of Social Security Reform Proposals on Lifetime Progressivity -- 6. Social Security's Treatment of Postwar Americans: How Bad Can It Get? -- 7. The Distributional Effects of an Investment-Based Social Security System -- 8. Distributional Effects in a General Equilibrium Analysis of Social Security -- 9. The Economics of Bequests in Pensions and Social Security -- 10. Differential Mortality and the Value of Individual Account Retirement Annuities -- Appendix: Estimating Life Tables That Reflect Socioeconomic Differences in Mortality -- Contributors -- Author Index -- Subject Index

Social security is the largest and perhaps the most popular program run by the federal government. Given the projected increase in both individual life expectancy and sheer number of retirees, however, the current system faces an eventual overload. Alternative proposals have emerged, ranging from reductions in future benefits to a rise in tax revenue to various forms of investment-based personal retirement accounts. As this volume suggests, the distributional consequences of these proposals are substantially different and may disproportionately affect those groups who depend on social security to avoid poverty in old age. Together, these studies persuasively show that appropriately designed investment-based social security reforms can effectively reduce the long-term burden of an aging society on future taxpayers, increase the expected future income of retirees, and mitigate poverty rates among the elderly.

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