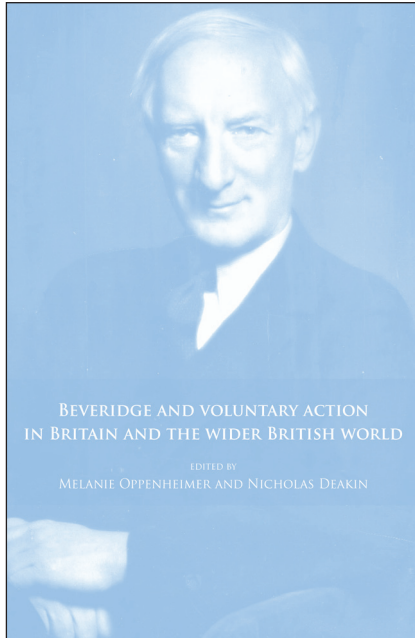


**MANCHESTER**  
1824

# Beveridge and voluntary action in Britain and the wider British world

Edited by **Melanie Oppenheimer and Nicholas Deakin**



In 1948, William Beveridge's last major report, voluntary action, was published. In this little remembered work, Beveridge, the father of the welfare state, sought out the middle ground between the state and the market, and outlined two main types of voluntary action for social advance - mutual aid and philanthropy. In November 2008, sixty years after its publication, a group of historians and academics from around the world gathered together to re-evaluate and reassess the ideas contained within voluntary action. For the first time,

and using examples from the UK, Australasia and Canada, this book clearly articulates the importance and significance of Beveridge's ideas on voluntary action within an international context.

The relationship between the state and the voluntary sector has changed significantly since 1948. With the emphasis of governments on the importance of the voluntary or 'third sector' and the development of policies and practices to enhance social capital, build civil society and engage communities, this book will be invaluable for those interested in how the third sector has evolved over time.

This volume makes a timely and valuable contribution to the current debates between third sector organisation and the state, particularly in the light of initiatives such as the Compact. It will be of interest to historians, social policy researchers, political theorists, economists and educationalists.

*Melanie Oppenheimer is an Associate Professor in Australian History at the University of New England, Australia. Nicholas Deakin is Emeritus Professor of Social Policy and Administration at the University of Birmingham*

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