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### **THE HISTORY OF THE EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE WORLD**

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#### **Abstract:**

The history of social protection in the world reflects the gradual transformation of charity, religious assistance, communal solidarity, and state intervention into more organized systems of support for vulnerable groups. This article examines the emergence of social protection from early forms of mutual aid to modern state-centered welfare mechanisms. Particular attention is given to the twentieth century, when social protection became one of the key directions of public policy. Using the uploaded material, the article analyzes the Soviet experience after the October Revolution as an important historical stage in the institutionalization of social protection. The study shows that social protection developed unevenly across countries and epochs, but everywhere it was linked to social crises, wars, industrialization, and the need to stabilize society. The findings indicate that the emergence of modern social protection was conditioned not only by humanitarian ideas, but also by political struggle, economic transformation, and the state's attempt to regulate labor, health, education, and basic welfare. The article concludes that social protection became a defining feature of modern governance precisely when support for the population moved from occasional assistance to systematic state responsibility.

**Keywords:** Social protection, social policy, welfare state, labor rights, public assistance, October Revolution, Soviet model, social history, world history, vulnerable groups.



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The emergence of social protection in world history was not a single event but a long historical process. In early societies, assistance to the poor, the elderly, widows, orphans, and the disabled was usually provided through family structures, religious institutions, and local communities. Over time, however, industrialization, urbanization, wars, and mass poverty revealed the limits of traditional forms of support. As a result, states increasingly assumed responsibility for regulating labor, public health, education, and assistance to socially vulnerable groups.

By the late nineteenth and especially the early twentieth century, social protection began to take on institutional form. It was no longer limited to moral charity; it became part of public administration. The twentieth century marked a turning point because governments were compelled to respond to unemployment, hunger, housing shortages, and the social consequences of war. The uploaded document shows that after 1917 the Soviet state made social protection, labor regulation, housing, education, and health care central elements of its social policy, although this process was deeply contradictory and often coercive.

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the historical emergence of social protection in the world and to explain why the early twentieth century, especially the post-revolutionary period, became decisive for its transformation into a state system.

The study is based on historical-comparative and analytical methods. The main source base is the uploaded material on the social policy strategy aimed at protecting the population in the early Soviet period. This material is interpreted within a broader world-historical framework. The research also relies on the principles of historicism and system analysis, allowing social protection to be examined as a product of economic, political, and ideological change.



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The analysis shows that the origins of social protection can be traced to ancient and medieval forms of mutual support, but these were fragmentary and selective. A modern understanding of social protection emerged only when states began to recognize public welfare as a political responsibility. In Europe, this shift accelerated with industrial capitalism, labor unrest, and the rise of social legislation. The social insurance reforms of the late nineteenth century in Germany are often regarded as one of the first systematic state efforts in this direction.

The twentieth century broadened this tendency dramatically. The uploaded material demonstrates that after the October Revolution of 1917 the Bolshevik government proclaimed a radical restructuring of social life and included land reform, labor regulation, social assistance, housing redistribution, education, and health care among its main priorities. In this sense, social protection ceased to be merely supplementary relief and became part of a state-building project.

The source indicates that the new government introduced free medical care, assistance to the unemployed, aid to the wounded, disabled persons, and the families of those killed in war. It also nationalized housing and redistributed empty or excessively large dwellings to workers and the poor, while literacy campaigns, free secular education, and public health campaigns were expanded. These measures illustrate how social protection in the twentieth century came to include not only direct welfare payments but also access to education, health care, and shelter.

At the same time, the same material shows the contradictory nature of this system. During the period of “war communism,” social policy was combined with compulsory labor, strict rationing, forced requisitions, and harsh restrictions on mobility and employment. Thus, the Soviet case reveals an important historical



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truth: the rise of modern social protection often occurred together with increased state control over society.

The world history of social protection demonstrates that welfare systems usually emerge at moments of crisis. States tend to expand social guarantees when social discontent, war, economic collapse, or class conflict threaten political order. This is why social protection should be understood not only as a humanitarian achievement but also as an instrument of governance.

The Soviet example is especially revealing. On the one hand, it introduced ideas that later became central to many welfare systems, including public health care, support for vulnerable groups, labor regulation, and mass education. The uploaded material clearly shows that such measures created the foundations of a broad state model of welfare. On the other hand, the same system was accompanied by forced nationalization, compulsory labor, shortages, severe inflation, weak living standards, and administrative coercion.

This duality is historically significant. It suggests that the emergence of social protection in the modern world was rarely pure or linear. Social protection developed through tension between equality and coercion, between rights and control, and between genuine support and ideological mobilization. Even so, the broader global tendency remained clear: by the twentieth century, states increasingly accepted responsibility for public welfare.

The history of the emergence of social protection in the world shows a movement from limited communal and charitable assistance toward organized state systems. This transformation was driven by industrialization, social inequality, war, and political upheaval. The twentieth century became decisive because social protection expanded into labor legislation, public health, education, housing, and support for vulnerable populations.



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The uploaded material confirms that the Soviet experience after 1917 was one of the most important and controversial examples of this shift. It combined real efforts to provide land, education, medical care, and social assistance with coercive forms of governance and severe social hardship. Therefore, the emergence of social protection in world history should be understood as both a humanitarian and a political process. Its long-term significance lies in the fact that modern states came to be judged not only by power, but also by their ability to protect society.

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