

# Interpretation of the Social Security Principles of the "Beveridge Report"

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## Abstract.

As a work in the history of social security, the "Beveridge Report" is still very influential. This article introduces the basic principles of the Beveridge Report and analyzes its historical origins to explain its economic background and social background, and make judgments about its historical limitations.

**Keywords:** Beveridge Report; Social Security Principles; Origin; Limitations

The Beveridge Report (hereinafter referred to as the report) is a well-known document in the history of the development of the British social security system and a classic document that has an important impact on the development of social security in all countries in the world. At this stage, my country has newly promulgated the "Social Insurance Law" and is also building a rural social insurance system in my country. A systematic interpretation of the "Report" has important practical significance. The "Report" clearly put forward various basic principles of social security, which have been continuously used as the basic principles of social insurance practice in various countries, and have become the basic principles of social insurance. It has continued to play an important role in the history of social security development.

## 1. The description of social security principles in the "Report"

Beveridge pointed out in the "Report" that social security should follow the following four basic principles. One is the principle of universality, that is, social security should meet the different social needs of all residents; the other is the principle of guaranteeing basic life, that is, social security can only guarantee the most basic living needs of every citizen are guaranteed; the third is the principle of uniformity, that is, the standard of social security payment and administrative management must be unified, and the

fourth is the principle of equal rights and obligations, that is, the enjoyment of social security must be based on labor and payment.

Among them, the significance of the principle of universality is that it stipulates the basic rights of social members to survive in the society, and adjust and distribute according to the needs of life, which is what we usually call sufficiency, which is to meet the basic life needs of all members of society and respect each A life's right to survival. Beveridge's "Overview of the Social Security Program" in the "Part One Introduction and Introduction" clearly pointed out that "the program is designed to meet the various needs of the British people in various situations". The rent, old age, and work-related injury issues that have been resolved at a higher rate have also been specifically arranged (see "Three Special Issues" in Part III of the "Report"). The principle of guaranteeing basic living has two meanings. One is the sufficiency of the content of the guarantee, that is, the basic needs of the people who need to be guaranteed are provided in accordance with the basic living needs, and sufficient protection is provided; the other is, In terms of the time of protection, that is, as long as the insured needs the content of the protection, regardless of the time limit, they are basically guaranteed. The third principle of unification refers to the unity of management and equality in civil rights. On the one hand, the state needs to coordinate the entire process of social security, integrate various social security systems at the national level, and coordinate and improve them into the same Under the principle, at the same time, the management process shall be uniformly deployed, and unified management departments shall be established to achieve management consistency; on the other hand, all members of society, rich or poor, need to pay fees and enjoy benefits, so as to The social strata carry out coordinated development and integration to achieve the goal of poverty eradication. The principle of unification of rights and obligations refers to the consistency of citizens' enjoyment of rights and performance of obligations, and the embodiment of cooperation between the state and individuals.

Beveridge fully implemented these basic principles in the process of designing the British social security system. The British government basically accepted the recommendations of the "Report" and passed a series of laws after the war to implement the basic principles of the "Report". Spiritually, these laws include the Family Allowance Act of 1945, the National Insurance Act of 1946, the National Work Injury Insurance Act, and the National Health Service Act, and the National Assistance Act of 1948. These five laws basically constitute The social security legal system of the British welfare state has realized the systematization of the social security system and the comprehensive protection of civil social rights. Since then, the UK has become the country with the most comprehensive social security legal system in the world, and at the same time it has been declared the world's first " Welfare State", thus becoming a model for the Nordic countries to establish a welfare state system. These principles also constitute the basic principles of modern social security.

## **2. The historical background and theoretical origin of the "Report"**

The "Report" was put forward during World War II. The author clearly mentioned that "the committee was appointed by the minister responsible for considering the post-war reconstruction of Britain in June 1941", which clearly pointed out the background and In the age, we can infer the historical background of the "Report" and make speculations about the various social backgrounds of the "Report". At this time, the impact of the Great Crisis began to emerge prominently. As one of the impacts, World War II was underway. The United States relied on Roosevelt's New Deal to rapidly rise its economy and became

### **(1) The economics and management origins of the "Report"**

The impact of the Great Crisis of 1929-1933 on Britain has just been eliminated, and it is basically in the post-war recovery period. The impact of the Great Crisis on the entire capitalist world is far-reaching and huge. On the one hand, it promoted the role of the country in the economy. At this time, in 1936, Keynes's "General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Currency" was published, which provided a solid theoretical basis for the state to intervene in economic life and marked the birth of Keynesianism. At the same time, this trend of economic thought is affecting the economic reconstruction of the world. jobs. The theory of state intervention has become the orthodoxy of economics. The most prominent manifestation is that the "Roosevelt New Deal" of US President Roosevelt has turned the US economy out of economic crisis and embarked on the road to recovery.

The main idea of Keynesianism is based on the existence of "market failure". When the economy is overheated or contracted, the country adjusts economic growth through fiscal and monetary policies to achieve stable economic development.

At the same time, Keynes' economic theory also provides an important basis for the development of management. The state is no longer a purely "night watchman" role, but has begun to play an increasingly important role. In terms of government management, the state's economic functions are becoming more and more obvious, and the state has more means and methods to regulate economic growth. . Ensuring the stable growth of the national economy has become one of the main functions of the government. At the same time, eliminating the gap between the rich and the poor is also an important role in ensuring consumption and investment. The secondary distribution of national income should also play a more important role in social security. At the same time, the government With the enhanced economic functions of the government, it will be more capable of providing a foundation for a unified social security work.

## **(2) Social origin: Beveridge's ideas appeared in England and also had his social background.**

First of all, as early as the 19th century, the United Kingdom formed a social relief system based on liberal principles and individualistic concepts, ranging from self-help, mutual aid and charity to the supreme legal system. This system is relatively complete and has eased social conflicts to varying degrees. Various civil organizations in the United Kingdom, such as trade unions, cooperatives, and friendship associations, are formed by individuals. They organize themselves spontaneously in order to resist work-related injuries, unemployment, pensions, and poverty. They have a good effect. The old and new "Poverty Relief Law" in the United Kingdom is considered to be the embryo of the social security system, and to a certain extent contributes to the spread of poverty.

Secondly, the idea of the welfare state came into being in the UK earlier. In the late 19th century, some reformists and trade union leaders proposed the idea of redistribution of national income based on the need to alleviate class contradictions. By the first half of the 20th century and twice The impact of the World War and the decline of the "sun never set" empire intensified class contradictions. Britain's calls for employment protection and improvement of social welfare have become increasingly louder.

Third, from the aspect of religion, early Christianity promoted the concept of equality for all and universal happiness. Many charities were run by religions. Their charitable activities ranged from poverty alleviation to unemployment relief, pension relief to medical assistance. All aspects vary. On the one hand, the role of religion has laid the moral foundation for the perfection of the social security system, and on the other hand it has supplemented the deficiencies of the system. This requires that the government's social security function be prominently reflected in modern society.

### **3. Reflections on the "Beveridge Report"**

Beveridge's "Report" provided a complete framework for the construction of the British welfare state from one level, and also provided a good reference for the construction of welfare states in the Nordic countries, and at the same time the social security systems built by countries in the world. Several basic principles have basically become the basis for the establishment of social security systems in various countries. While using the "Report", countries are also constantly adjusting and improving. It is mainly based on these principles that there are still many shortcomings, some even exist. Contradictory places.

(1) The overall plan of the "Report" is based on social insurance.

On the one hand, he emphasizes the principle of universality, and at the same time emphasizes the principle of equal rights and obligations of social insurance. This means that a part of the work is in abject poverty or intermittent work. The people who are subordinated cannot enjoy the relevant benefits

because they cannot pay, which shows that the social security system based on social insurance cannot satisfy the principle of universality.

(2) The "Report" emphasizes the use of a uniform subsidy level, that is, except for a few issues such as rent, the subsidy treatment is the same across the country. In this case, due to the different cost of living in different parts of the UK, the imbalance in prices makes some areas unable to Satisfy basic life needs, which leads to the inability to fully solve the poverty problem.

(3) The unified payment standard proposed in the "Report" means that no matter how much social insurance participants earn, they are all paying the same fees. In this case, when we promote social insurance in accordance with the principle of universality, we can only accept The low-income earners' ability to pay is based on the standard setting of paying fees. In this case, the payment standard is low and thus cannot meet the principle of life needs. If charged according to a higher standard, it will lead to the proportion of people who are unable to pay. Increase, the principle of universality cannot be satisfied.

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