

Welfare Policy and its Origin in the Rambam's (Maimonides') Doctrine

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The article examines the main issues concerning welfare policy and tries to answer the question: are these issues based on principles from the Rambam's doctrine? The main issues are: aid to the needy; the tax system; assistance during unemployment; encouraging unemployed to return to work; foreign workers and the assistance given by social work.

Comparative discussion of these issues and the welfare principles of Rambam's doctrine show that ideas which were written down hundreds of years before the existence of the state of Israel are today the cornerstones of its welfare policy. These comparisons can contribute to the design of the welfare policy, its understanding and consolidation. They can also help formulate a model which will assist the Israeli decision maker. Finally, they can assist us in determining the appropriate approach in working with religious welfare populations.

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