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Poverty in the United States: The War on Poverty, 1964-2009
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All modern societies grapple with the issue of poverty. The United States is the richest country in the world, and yet poverty has been an issue for decades. The United States is a place where extremes in income continue to be a subject of concern for the federal and state government, lobbyists, and grass roots organizations. For those who live in poverty, finding adequate support services is a challenge. Programs exist, but are often difficult to navigate. From the founding of the United States until the early nineteenth century, individual communities established means by which to take care of the poor. Often times the wealthy would form philanthropic groups in order to address the needs of the poor. Unfortunately, their efforts were either misguided, inadequate, or both. Despite its continuous efforts, poverty has never been completely eradicated at any time in the United States.

The United States has its own experiences with poverty. When asked about historical references to poverty, most people would think of the Great Depression. In actuality, poverty has long been a part of the American experience. Many people have attempted to solve the puzzle of poverty. This research is important in light of the recent global economic downturn. The effects of this recession have caused major economic turmoil in the United States, and the effects are projected to last for the coming decade. While the negative effects of the recession are felt globally, this paper will examine poverty in America between the years of 1964 and 2009. It will also investigate the effects of the programs and projects that were implemented, and whether they were effective in relieving poverty and achieving the stated goals of permanently lifting people from poverty.