

Syracuse University

SURFACE at Syracuse University

Renée Crown University Honors Thesis Projects - All Syracuse University Honors Program Capstone Projects

2024

From New York to Yunnan: Comparative Perspectives on Poverty Alleviation Policies and Initiatives

Xinyi (Julie) Dou
Syracuse University

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/honors_capstone

Recommended Citation

Dou, Xinyi (Julie), "From New York to Yunnan: Comparative Perspectives on Poverty Alleviation Policies and Initiatives" (2024). *Renée Crown University Honors Thesis Projects - All*. 1805.
https://surface.syr.edu/honors_capstone/1805

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Syracuse University Honors Program Capstone Projects at SURFACE at Syracuse University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Renée Crown University Honors Thesis Projects - All by an authorized administrator of SURFACE at Syracuse University. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

From New York to Yunnan: Comparative Perspectives on Poverty

Alleviation Policies and Initiatives

Julie Dou

Syracuse University

International Relations Distinction Thesis

Renée Crown University Honors Program Capstone

Second Reader: Xiyin Li

Thesis advisor: Osamah F. Khalil

Introduction

Global poverty is one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today.¹ The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 prioritize "eradicating all forms of poverty" as the first of the 17 goals.² Developed and developing countries define poverty differently based on their specific contexts. The United States and China, as the world's largest developed and developing countries, respectively, have surpassed the international extreme poverty threshold defined by the World Bank, which is set at living on "less than \$2.15 per person per day." As of 2022, both countries have achieved some success in addressing extreme poverty.³

Sixty years ago, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared an "unconditional war on poverty" and signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.⁴ Over time, the social safety net in the United States has expanded. As of 2023, there are 13 anti-poverty welfare programs in the United States. In 2023, federal spending on these 13 programs accounted for 18% of total federal expenditures.⁵

In 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China that the country had successfully eradicated extreme poverty. According to World Bank statistics, China contributed nearly three-quarters of the global reduction in extreme poverty.⁶ Key measures implemented by the Chinese government, such as the "targeted poverty alleviation" strategy and "The Minimum Livelihood Guarantee Program," played a crucial role in addressing extreme poverty in the country.

Although China and the United States have made progress in addressing extreme

¹ Our World in Data, "Poverty."

² United Nations, "Ending Poverty."

³ World Bank, "How We Work."

⁴ Chaudry et al. "Poverty in the United States: 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts," 1.

⁵ Federal Safety Net, "U.S. Welfare Programs."

⁶ World Bank Group, "Lifting 800 Million People out of Poverty – New Report Looks at Lessons from China's Experience."

poverty, it remains a pervasive issue in both countries and continues evolving with changing social contexts. This paper analyzes poverty alleviation strategies in China's Yunnan Province and the New York State in the United States. By drawing on a range of sources, I argue that I argue that New York State's poverty alleviation policies primarily focus on tax policy, housing initiatives, and public welfare programs to address poverty, particularly child poverty in upstate regions. In contrast, Yunnan Province's strategies emphasize infrastructure development, minority tourism, and agricultural transformation. I conclude that both countries' current policies have limitations. However, by summarizing their past experiences, they can collaborate on global poverty alleviation efforts.

Literature Review

Lauren Gurley argues that rural poverty in the United States has been consistently overlooked and neglected in academic research, policy discussions, and public discourse. Using comparative data, Gurley demonstrates that the poverty rate in rural areas is higher than in urban areas and is most concentrated in the American "Deep South." She concludes that effective solutions to rural poverty must recognize that it is a complex issue involving race, economics, and politics. Although Gurley note that when most Americans think about poverty they focus on the Global South, she does not offer a comparative analysis to China. Furthermore, Gurley's research remains concentrated on the southern region of the United States.⁷

Lawrence Berger, Maria Cancian, and Katherine Magnuson examine the effectiveness of innovative anti-poverty policy strategies in the United States. They argue that, since the 2016 presidential election, issues related to immigration, incarceration, and healthcare have not been systematically addressed, let alone those affecting rural poverty. Berger, et al. contend that instead, the U.S. requires well-designed new policy initiatives. However, they do not discuss international examples for

⁷ Gurley, "Who's Afraid of Rural Poverty? The Story behind America's Invisible Poor." 549-603.

policy initiatives, nor do they focus on China.⁸

Rolf Pendall and Susan Christopherson's examine poverty in upstate New York over two decades. They found that by 2000, the poverty rate in upstate New York was approaching the national average of 12.4%.⁹ They observed that this contrasted with the national trend of decreasing poverty during the same period. The authors emphasize that improving housing policies and promoting affordable housing in communities with access to quality education could help alleviate poverty in the region. However, they do not compare to China.

Chen Wang, Yihua Chen, and Zhiying Li argue that China's rural poverty alleviation policies have evolved significantly over time.¹⁰ Wang, et al., argue that while China has successfully addressed absolute poverty through government-led strategies focusing on economic development, the current challenge lies in addressing relative poverty. The study suggests that future poverty alleviation efforts must optimize policy instruments by balancing supply-side, demand-side, and environment-side strategies, emphasizing service support and capacity-building goals alongside economic development. Although the study references research from global scholars on fundamental poverty theories, it does not mention the United States.

Kun Yan details China's poverty alleviation efforts.¹¹ He contends that the "China Model" of poverty alleviation has success fully lifted millions out of poverty. Yan examines several strategies that were applied in Yunnan Province. He also discusses U.S. poverty alleviation policies and initiatives as possible examples for China to adapt.¹² I draw on Yan's study to further examine comparisons between China's Yunnan province and the U.S.'s upstate New York region in terms of poverty alleviation strategies and outcomes.

⁸ Berger et al., "Anti-Poverty Policy Innovations," 1-13.

⁹ Brookings, "Losing Ground: Income and Poverty in Upstate New York, 1980-2000."

¹⁰ Wang et al., "Escaping Poverty: Changing Characteristics of China's Rural Poverty Reduction Policy and Future Trends," 1-13.

¹¹ Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 1.

¹² Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 125-27.

Historical Background

When people hear "poverty," they might picture struggling children and families in developing nations who lack necessities. However, even in a wealthy country like the United States, the word characterizes the living conditions of a substantial share of the population¹³.

The history of poverty alleviation in the United States can be traced back to the 1930s when President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented the "New Deal" to address the Great Depression¹⁴. In 1935, President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act; it began a program that lasted for 64 years. This was also the first time the federal government became involved in solving the problems of unemployment and poverty¹⁵. However, the wartime and post-war economic prosperity did not truly provide equal opportunities for the poor in America. In fact, the gap between the rich and poor continued to widen. Therefore, 20 years after the country emerged from the Great Depression, President Lyndon B. Johnson was elected. He proposed the "War on Poverty," a plan to elevate traditional welfare policies to the level of challenging the overall poverty situation in society, calling on the entire nation to wage a war on poverty. He labeled his ambitious domestic agenda "The Great Society."¹⁶ Johnson's specific poverty reduction efforts¹⁷. These initiatives led to what has been referred to as the "welfare explosion," pushing the United States, somewhat reluctantly category of a "Reluctant Welfare State."¹⁸

The year 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the "War on Poverty." Over those five decades, American taxpayers spent more than \$22 trillion on anti-poverty programs. Adjusted for inflation, these expenditures (excluding Social Security and Medicare) were three times the cost of all U.S. military wars since the American Revolution. However, data from the U.S. Census Bureau in 2014 showed minimal progress in reducing poverty. Efforts to build self-

¹³ Berger et al., "Anti-Poverty Policy Innovations," 3.

¹⁴ EDGE, "The Great Depression and the New Deal."

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Miller center, "Lyndon B. Johnson: Domestic Affairs."

¹⁷ Brauer, "Kennedy, Johnson, and the War on Poverty," 117.

¹⁸ McClymer and Jansson, "The Reluctant Welfare State: A History of American Social Welfare Policies," 900.

sufficiency had stalled, primarily due to the welfare system itself, which fostered a pattern of dependency.¹⁹

According to a 2015 Pew Research Center report, impoverished Americans' characteristics have shifted significantly since 1960. Today, a greater proportion of poor individuals are of prime working age rather than elderly. Additionally, children and people of any age who are black, Hispanic, or both remain disproportionately high. The geographical distribution of poverty has also changed considerably. Since the 1960s, the poverty rate in rural areas like the Midwest has declined from 49% to 41%. As the urban population in the U.S. grew from 70% to 81% over the past five decades, poverty became more prevalent in metropolitan counties, including those around Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City. While only 14% of impoverished Americans lived in these large metropolitan areas in 1960, this figure rose to 21% by 2010, reflecting the urbanization of poverty alongside the broader urban population growth.²⁰

While many leading U.S. scholars and poverty policy researchers have focused on rural poverty in the Midwest, poverty on the East Coast, especially in New York, has received less attention. New York State ranks third in GDP contribution nationwide, generating approximately \$2.15 trillion—like the entire economy of Canada.²¹ Paradoxically, the state has some of the highest poverty rates in the country, particularly for children in upstate regions. According to a 2024 New York State Comptroller audit, child poverty rates in the upstate cities of Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo ranged between 40% and 46% in 2022. Nationally, these cities rank second, fifth, and seventh in child poverty rates among large cities, with rates about double those of similarly populated cities. In Albany, nearly 30% of children live in poverty,

¹⁹ The Heritage Foundation, “The Reluctant Welfare State: A History of American Social Welfare Policies.”

²⁰ Pew Research Center, “How the Geography of U.S. Poverty Has Shifted since 1960.”

²¹ PGC Group, “The 50 US States’ GDP Compared to Countries - PGC Group: Employer of Record - USA & Canada.”

underscoring the widespread issue of poverty across upstate New York.²²

The state's upstate region, with its 52 counties of rolling farmlands, forested mountains, and declining industrial towns.²³ Nearly 6 million people live here—a population that has decreased by about 1 million since 1990. According to an article from City Journal in Autumn 1999, while other Rust Belt cities like Cleveland and Grand Rapids, Michigan, experienced growth during the economic boom, upstate New York cities such as Buffalo and Syracuse continued to decline, facing similar issues in both population loss and economic stagnation.²⁴ With the decline of manufacturing and related industries in Upstate New York starting in the 1990s, poverty rates among families, individuals, and children began to rise, even as poverty rates for these groups fell nationwide. Traditionally, Upstate New York was considered a low-poverty area, but by 2000, the poverty rate in the region had reached 11%, close to the national average of 12.4%. Personal income growth in Upstate New York was only half the national rate, leaving many residents increasingly reliant on government support programs like Social Security and Medicaid to offset the economic impact of industry and job losses²⁵.

Policy solutions for poverty in Upstate New York have typically focused on economic revitalization, such as reducing taxes and creating economic development funds.²⁶ During Governor Andrew Cuomo's tenure, he introduced the "Upstate Revitalization Initiative," which encouraged the formation of Regional Economic Development Councils to create strategic plans for the area. However, these economic plans largely benefited select businesses, failing to address the needs of urban residents in Upstate New York, who have been heavily impacted by rising poverty.²⁷ Urban residents in Upstate New York face limited educational resources, a high proportion of single-parent households, criminal records, and transportation challenges²⁸,

²² Times Union, "Child Poverty in New York among Worst in Nation, Report Says."

²³ City Journal, "Down-and-out Upstate."

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Brookings, "Losing Ground: Income and Poverty in Upstate New York, 1980-2000."

²⁶ John Bacheller, "The Crisis of Poverty in Upstate New York Cities."

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

all of which hinder their competitiveness in the job market and contribute to a cycle of poverty. As a result, addressing poverty in upstate New York requires more direct, resident-focused solutions to tackle issues related to housing, employment, education, and healthcare.

From the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 until the period before the Reform and Opening up in 1978, the newly established state, emerging from the ravages of war, was "poor and lacking in resources." Poverty alleviation efforts during this period primarily focused on meeting the most basic survival needs of the poor (ensuring the right to life). Consequently, the poverty alleviation policies of this era were centered mainly on relief and aid.²⁹

Since 1978, China's poverty alleviation efforts can be divided into four key stages.³⁰ From 1978 to 1985, the first stage focused on addressing poverty primarily caused by systemic issues. During this period, institutional reforms were essential to unleash productivity in rural areas, thereby alleviating poverty nationwide. According to the international standard of \$1 per day per capita (measured in 1985 purchasing power parity), the poverty rate fell dramatically, from approximately 60% in 1978 to less than 40% in 1985.³¹

The period from 1986 to 1993 is considered the second phase of poverty alleviation in China. During this time, China experienced rapid economic growth, and new rural production organization systems helped most rural areas achieve significant development.³² However, due to China's large size and diverse regions, some areas lagged in adopting a market economy mindset due to differences in religious beliefs and cultural perspectives and suffered from underdeveloped infrastructure and education levels. In certain western regions, the actual annual income of farmers grew by only 3.6%, and the marginal effect of poverty alleviation

²⁹ Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 3.

³⁰ Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 40.

³¹ UNDP, "Poverty Alleviation in China: Commitment, Policies, and Expenditures."

³² Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 42.

began to diminish.³³ In 1993, the government announced the “8-7 Plan,” which aimed to lift the remaining 80 million rural poor out of poverty by 2000 (within seven years). By the end of 1993, the rural population still struggling with basic needs had decreased from 125 million in 1985 to 80 million.³⁴ However, overall results in this phase were less effective than in the first phase, with poverty alleviation efforts stagnating due to a cooling in economic growth and the concentration of poverty among rural populations.³⁵

The third phase of poverty alleviation spanned from 1994 to 2000, during which those above the “8-7 Plan” entered a critical stage. In this phase, government investment in poverty alleviation reached historic highs, increasing from 9.79 billion RMB (\$1.378 billion) in 1994 to 24.81 billion RMB (\$3.491 billion) in 2000.³⁶ However, according to an IMF study, farmers’ per capita net income as a percentage of the national total declined, dropping from 43.7% in 1990 to 26.3% in 2002, and its ratio to per capita GDP fell from 18.4% in 1990 to 8.2% in 2002.³⁷ By the end of 2000, China’s rural areas still had 22 million people living in poverty. Consequently, the ambitious goal in the 8-7 Plan of lifting 80 million people out of poverty and achieving basic living standards by the end of the decade remained unmet.³⁸

The fourth phase of poverty alleviation began in the 21st century, from 2001 to 2010—this period has also brought new challenges. Around 30 million people struggled with self-sufficiency, and over 60 million were classified as low-income, making these 90 million people the primary target of poverty alleviation efforts in rural China during this time.³⁹ In 2003, the Chinese government introduced the Rural Minimum Living Security System, designed to support rural residents with incomes below the minimum living standard.⁴⁰ China abolished the

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ International Organization for Migration, “Migration & Poverty Alleviation in China.”

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 45.

³⁷ Hu et al., “China’s Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (1978–2002),” 12.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 47.

⁴⁰ Fang and Zhang, “The Future Path to China’s Poverty Reduction—Dynamic Decomposition Analysis with the Evolution of China’s Poverty Reduction Policies,” 513.

centuries-old agricultural tax in 2006 to further promote agricultural development.⁴¹ However, according to the new poverty line established in 2009, China still had around 43 million people living in poverty. Additionally, under the UN criterion of “average spending of a dollar per day,” approximately 150 million people in China remained impoverished.⁴²

After becoming President of the PRC in 2012, Xi Jinping prioritized eliminating absolute poverty as a key policy goal for the nation’s development.⁴³ In November 2013, Xi introduced the Targeted Poverty Alleviation program (TPA, the official name) to support impoverished populations effectively. By the end of 2015, the Chinese government formally pledged to eradicate poverty by 2020, aligning this milestone with the centenary of the Communist Party of China in 2021.⁴⁴ During this period, the government defined poverty as an income at or below the rural poverty line—equivalent to an annual revenue of 2,300 yuan (USD 339.7 at 2010 constant prices). Additionally, leaders committed to eliminating the “two worries” (inadequate food and clothing) and providing the “three guarantees” (access to healthcare, education, and housing). They set an ambitious goal of lifting over 70 million people out of poverty within five years—an unprecedented promise compared to prior Chinese administrations, which aimed to reduce poverty rather than eradicate it.⁴⁵ To achieve these goals, the government’s budget for poverty alleviation more than doubled, rising from \$7.5 billion (RMB 46.8 billion) in 2015 to \$18.3 billion (RMB 126.1 billion) by 2019.⁴⁶

At the CCP Politburo Standing Committee meeting in 2020, Xi Jinping announced that the elimination of extreme poverty had been achieved, describing it as a "complete victory" that would "go down in history."⁴⁷ However, the government’s various measures have also sparked doubts and controversy. Some scholars describe China's bureaucratic system as a model of

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 50.

⁴³ China Power, “Is China Succeeding at Eradicating Poverty?”

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ BBC News, “China’s XI Declares Victory in Ending Extreme Poverty.”

"fragmented authoritarianism."⁴⁸ China's bureaucracy's complexity and strict hierarchy often lead to negotiation, bargaining, and compromise among multiple bureaucratic actors, resulting in disjointed and protracted decision-making processes. This fragmentation is especially pronounced in impoverished regions, where different departments compete for resources and shift responsibilities in implementing poverty alleviation policies.⁴⁹

Yunnan, located in China's southwestern frontier, is one of the country's least-developed provinces and a focal point of the Chinese government's poverty eradication efforts.⁵⁰ It is also a historically diverse region, home to several ethnic groups who experience higher poverty rates and lower living standards compared to the majority Han population.⁵¹ As part of one of China's 14 contiguous areas of extreme poverty, Yunnan faces challenges such as underdeveloped infrastructure, inadequate public services, and slow growth in its distinctive industries.⁵²

After the 1978 Reform and Opening-Up, Yunnan's poverty issues gradually gained attention from the Chinese government. Efforts were made to transition Yunnan to a market economy by promoting the development of local industries, including tourism, agriculture, and trade with neighboring countries such as Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar. During China's Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985–1990), tourism began to be effectively utilized as a tool for economic development.⁵³ In Yunnan, cultural heritage tourism was expected to thrive. However, most major tourist sites were in rural areas classified as "non-poverty" regions in 1986, limiting tourism's impact on poverty alleviation despite its contribution to economic growth.⁵⁴

⁴⁸ Liu, "Poverty Reduction in a Transforming China: A Critical Review," 782.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Institute for Security and Development Policy, "Ethnic Minorities and the Fight against Poverty in China: The Case of Yunnan."

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Feng and Chen, "Study on the Implementation Measures of Yunnan's Big Poverty Alleviation Strategy under the Vision of Multi-Center Collaborative Governance," 610.

⁵³ Yang et al., "Tourism: An Alternative to Development?" 335-6.

⁵⁴ Yang et al., "Tourism: An Alternative to Development?" 338.

By the early 21st century, Yunnan's poverty reduction policies shifted toward financial aid initiatives.⁵⁵ From 2001 to 2009, provincial and higher-level financial administrations invested 14.02 billion yuan (\$1.938 billion) in poverty alleviation funds in Yunnan.⁵⁶ After Xi Jinping became China's president in 2013, Yunnan was officially designated as a focal point of his targeted poverty alleviation strategy, which emphasized individualized support for impoverished households. Key measures in the region included poverty alleviation through relocation, promoting diversified economic development, and implementing the "Triple Medical Security" (TMS) policy to improve healthcare access.⁵⁷

Yunnan's poverty alleviation efforts have also revealed several underlying issues. Some unrecognized ethnic minorities were excluded from official poverty alleviation programs due to their lack of formal recognition. Poverty Alleviation Through Relocation has also been criticized as a form of forced displacement. Critics argue that local governments have used it to acquire, develop, and sell land for profit under the guise of poverty reduction.⁵⁸

Current Poverty Trends and Policy Responses in New York State

Poverty remains a significant issue in New York State. Despite its strong economy and comprehensive social safety net, millions of residents struggle to meet basic needs. According to a 2022 report by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, over 2.7 million people in the state were living below the federal poverty line as of the end of 2021. New York's poverty rate has consistently exceeded the national average.⁵⁹

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted poverty in New York State. It caused

⁵⁵ Yan, *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*, 219.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Zhou et al., "The Effect of the 'Triple-Layer Medical Security' Policy on the Vulnerability as Expected Poverty of Rural Households: Evidence from Yunnan Province, China," 1.

⁵⁸ Institute for Security and Development Policy, "Ethnic Minorities and the Fight against Poverty in China: The Case of Yunnan."

⁵⁹ Office of the New York State Comptroller, "New Yorkers in Need: A Look at Poverty Trends in New York State for the Last Decade."

widespread unemployment and severe economic disruption for many families. According to an August 2020 survey by the U.S. Census Bureau on household spending challenges, approximately one-third of surveyed households in New York reported experiencing at least some financial difficulty. This figure continued to rise, and by October 2022, the percentage had increased to 40.9% nationwide and 47.1% in New York State.⁶⁰ Child poverty remains a significant challenge in New York State. In 2022, 18.8% of children lived in poverty. The situation is even more severe in cities like Syracuse and Rochester, where over 40% of children are affected, making these among the hardest-hit areas in the country. Overall, nearly one in five children in New York experiences poverty, exceeding the national average by 2.5 percentage points.⁶¹

However, the onset of the pandemic brought a temporary mitigation of certain socio-economic challenges, largely attributable to federal intervention. In response to the pandemic, Congress introduced comprehensive plans and response packages designed to stabilize the economy.⁶² For young children and families, critical measures included economic stimulus payments, an expanded and refundable Child Tax Credit, increased nutrition assistance, housing support, and a limited paid leave program implemented in the early stages of the crisis.⁶³ These initiatives significantly bolstered the economic stability of households. Data from the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure indicates that the poverty rate for children under five declined to 6% in 2021, with the economic stimulus payments and the Child Tax Credit expansion identified as the most impactful drivers of this reduction.⁶⁴ As the pandemic receded, however, these federal policies were phased out or expired. Evidence from various surveys demonstrates that many families have experienced severe financial difficulties after the

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Foundation For Child Development, "Cutting Child Poverty in Half and More: Pandemic-Era Lessons from Child and Family Advocates and Organizers Webinar."

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

pandemic and have struggled to meet basic expenses and experiencing elevated levels of stress, especially as inflation has spiked and the cost of goods has increased.⁶⁵ By 2022, the child poverty rate had risen from a historic low of 6% in 2021 to 13%, reflecting a distinct "V-shaped" trajectory that underscores the precarious nature of previous gains and highlights the pressing need for durable and comprehensive policy solutions.⁶⁶

New York State has responded to the rising child poverty rates, with one of the most prominent initiatives being the Child Poverty Reduction Act, signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul on December 2, 2021.⁶⁷ A cornerstone of Governor Hochul's administration, the Act formally recognized poverty as a significant challenge and a policy priority for New York State. The legislation aims to reduce the state's child poverty rate by 50% by 2032 through targeted housing, tax credits, and childcare investments.⁶⁸ To expedite the achievement of its goals and facilitate the implementation of specific measures, the legislation established the Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council (CPRAC). The Council is tasked with analyzing child poverty in the state, recommending actionable policies to the Governor, and monitoring progress to ensure that the goal of a 50% reduction is achieved within ten years by December 2031.⁶⁹

On November 20, 2024, the Council released its first draft of policy recommendations, which included 11 core proposals addressing tax policy, housing initiatives, and public welfare programs.⁷⁰ Some of the recommendations presented alternative strategies to address the same issues, and the Council consolidated these into three policy packages, combining 8 out of the 11 proposals in various configurations. The comprehensive policy package is projected to cost New York State approximately \$8.97 billion, with an estimated annual increase of \$3,613 in

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council, "Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council 2023 Progress Report."

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Spectrum News, "N.Y. Council Tasked with Cutting Child Poverty in Half by 2031 Moves Closer to Issuing Recommendations."

⁷⁰ NYUp.com, "\$8.97B Plan Aims to Cut NY Child Poverty by More than Half."

resources for eligible families.⁷¹

With Donald Trump's return to the White House as the 47th President of the United States, it remains uncertain whether his return will effectively address America's poverty issue. However, his decisions during his tenure as the 45th President provide some indication of his likely approach, as his overall policies leaned heavily toward reducing federal spending and limiting government intervention in social welfare programs.⁷² One example was the imposition of work requirements for Medicaid recipients, which mandated that "able-bodied, working-age individuals find employment, train for work, or volunteer" to qualify for benefits.⁷³ Similarly, Trump's administration sought to cut the budget for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by nearly 30%, a move that would have further jeopardized the most vulnerable populations, leaving those in extreme poverty in an even more precarious position.⁷⁴

During his previous term, President Trump doubled the Child Tax Credit (CTC) from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child and raised the income eligibility cap.⁷⁴ The CTC was temporarily expanded to \$3,000 per child, with \$3,600 allocated for children under six, in 2021 due to the pandemic. However, the expanded benefits will lapse without legislative action, reverting to the 2017 baseline of \$1,000 per child.⁷⁵

Given the high uncertainty surrounding federal policies under the Trump administration, proactive measures in New York have become increasingly important for protecting vulnerable populations and sustaining progress in poverty reduction. Governor Kathy Hochul could implement impactful measures at the state level before the new administration takes office in January.⁷⁶ Currently, three critical state-level bills await her signature, all addressing structural barriers in the tax code and childcare system. These bills include provisions to extend childcare

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Vox, "Trump Proposed Big Medicaid and Food Stamp Cuts. Can He Pass Them?"

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Spectrum News, "How the Election Could Impact the Federal Child Tax Credit."

⁷⁶ Ibid.

benefits to families earning below the minimum income threshold, remove obstacles faced by parents with irregular work schedules, and establish presumptive eligibility for applicants, allowing them to access services while their paperwork is being processed.⁷⁷ These state-level initiatives could provide crucial support to families during a period of federal policy uncertainty.

Current Poverty Trends and Policy Responses in Yunnan Province

In September 2020, officials from Yunnan Province announced that the region had successfully achieved its goal of eradicating poverty, lifting all 9.33 million rural residents out of poverty as planned. Statistics indicate that 88 counties previously classified as impoverished and 8,502 poverty-stricken villages were officially removed from the poverty list.⁷⁸ Three key measures played a crucial role in Yunnan's success in poverty alleviation.

The first major initiative was infrastructure development. Over the past decade, rapid economic growth in Yunnan drove urbanization and significantly strained water resources and sanitation infrastructure. The accompanying population surge also exacerbated challenges such as water pollution.⁷⁹ To address these issues, Yunnan implemented the "Yunnan Urban Environment Project" through close collaboration with the World Bank, the provincial government, local authorities at municipal, prefectural, and county levels, and private investment companies.⁸⁰ This project specifically focused on improving water resource management and environmental conditions. By investing in systems for wastewater treatment, solid waste management, and river environment restoration, the initiative significantly enhanced the efficiency and coverage of critical urban infrastructure services.⁸¹ According to the latest data, the project provided improved water sources to 400,000 urban residents and

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ China Daily, "Yunnan Succeeds in Eliminating Poverty."

⁷⁹ World Bank Group, "Transforming China's Yunnan Province: Better Water Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future."

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

upgraded sanitation facilities for approximately 320,600 people, thereby improving living conditions and addressing urban environmental challenges.⁸²

Strengthening the railway transportation system has also been critical to Yunnan Province's infrastructure transformation. On December 30, 2020, after five years of construction, the Dali-Lincang Railway was officially opened. With a total investment of 15.5 billion yuan (approximately USD 2.4 billion), the project aimed to upgrade the province's infrastructure and enhance regional connectivity.⁸³ This railway is the first direct link connecting Lincang, a prefecture-level city, to the provincial network. More importantly, the launch of the Dali-Lincang Railway significantly reduced travel time between Kunming, the provincial capital, and Lincang, renowned as the hometown of Pu'er tea.⁸⁴ What was once a four-to-five-hour journey by car can now be completed in just 1.5 to 2 hours by train. Developing railway systems in Yunnan's mountainous terrain posed considerable challenges; however, completing this railway has brought substantial benefits to the local population. It facilitates daily travel for residents and improves market access for agricultural products, promoting regional economic development and poverty alleviation efforts.⁸⁵

The second key measure contributing to Yunnan's success in alleviating poverty has been the effective promotion and market access of agricultural products domestically and globally. Two of Yunnan's most significant crops, coffee beans, and Pu'er tea, serve as vital economic pillars for the province. Yunnan produces 95% of China's coffee output, gradually establishing itself as Asia's coffee capital.⁸⁶ Leveraging the newly constructed railway system, Yunnan's coffee beans are now exported as far as Europe.

Similarly, Pu'er tea, primarily produced in Pu'er City, is now exported worldwide. Pu'er

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ GoKunming, "High-Speed Railway Connects Yunnan's Remote Lincang County."

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ BORGEM Magazine, "Starbucks' Farming Centers in Yunnan."

tea, with a history far longer than coffee beans, has been highly regarded since the Qing Dynasty when it was already being exported to numerous European countries. Remarkably, a single block of Pu'er tea from this impoverished region of southern China can command a price higher than its weight in silver.⁸⁷ In 2018, Starbucks established an agricultural center in Yunnan, which has since trained 50,000 farmers, improving the quality of coffee production and contributing to economic growth.⁸⁸

However, despite these advancements, economic disparities persist. In 2022, the annual per capita disposable income of rural residents in Pu'er City—a region that produces coffee beans and Pu'er tea—was only 14,619 yuan (approximately USD 2,058), averaging just over 1,000 yuan per month.⁸⁹ According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the national per capita disposable income in 2022 was 36,883 yuan (approximately \$5,290 USD), while rural residents averaged 20,133 yuan (approximately \$2,890 USD).⁹⁰ Clearly, Pu'er City's average income remains significantly below both the national and rural benchmark. While the promotion and export of agricultural products have undoubtedly increased employment and raised income for residents to some extent, concerns remain about the transparency of profit distribution and where the majority of the profits ultimately flow.

The third major initiative focuses on livelihood development through sustainable rural tourism. The China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), one of China's leading NGOs, launched the livelihood development program in 2013. Also known as the “Bona Villa Program.” This initiative transforms rural homes into guesthouses, addressing key challenges such as unsustainable economic models, limited capacity for wealth generation, and the urban-rural divide. By introducing comprehensive planning and professional design, the program

⁸⁷Foreign Policy, “Rich Man, Pu'er Man.”

⁸⁸ BORGEM Magazine, “Starbucks' Farming Centers in Yunnan.”

⁸⁹ Global Times, “Yunnan Farmers Escape Poverty by Selling Coffee Beans to Europe.”

⁹⁰ National Bureau of Statistics of China, “Households' Income and Consumption Expenditure in 2022.”

renovates homes while preserving villages' ecological and cultural integrity.⁹¹

Additionally, it promotes rural tourism, encourages youth to return for employment opportunities, and enhances gender equality by involving women in guesthouse management.⁹² As of the end of 2023, the Bona Villa Program raised 3.02 billion yuan (approximately \$423 million USD), benefiting 34 counties across 15 provinces, and Yunnan Province is a significant beneficial province. Moreover, the program was recognized as a model case in the cultural-tourism integration category of the national "One County, One Product" Project and earned a place on the 2023 list of National Demonstration Counties for Rural Revitalization.⁹³

Implementing this initiative requires coordination among various stakeholders, including homeowners, local officials, designers, government agencies, and private enterprises. Ensuring effective communication and close collaboration between these parties is crucial for the program's broader promotion and overall development in the future. Furthermore, as the project grows and expands online and offline, ongoing monitoring and strategic adjustments are essential to ensure the sustainable preservation of the ecological environment and cultural heritage.

Comparison of U.S. and China Poverty Alleviation

Based on the previous analysis, poverty's root causes and external manifestations in the United States and China demonstrate significant similarities. However, as the world's two largest economies, the two countries exhibit notable differences in poverty dynamics.

In the United States, poverty alleviation strategies have evolved over decades, from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal to President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty.

⁹¹ China Foundation for Rural Development, "China Foundation for Rural Development annual report 2023."

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

This has resulted in a poverty reduction system primarily centered on welfare programs, supplemented by regional development policies and the active involvement of government, businesses, and social organizations. In China, poverty has been more prevalent in rural areas, exacerbating the wealth gap between urban and rural regions, particularly during the country's economic and social transformation. Since 2016, under President Xi Jinping, addressing absolute poverty has become a national strategy, with the Targeted Poverty Alleviation Program as the central response policy. However, the previous review of the overall poverty alleviation policies in both countries and the specific initiatives implemented in New York State and Yunnan Province reveals certain limitations and significant challenges that cannot be overlooked.

At the federal level, the United States funds over 100 separate anti-poverty programs, approximately 70 of which provide cash or in-kind benefits to individuals.⁹⁴ These programs are managed by seven cabinet agencies and six independent agencies, each overseeing at least one anti-poverty initiative. This figure does not include broader social welfare or social insurance programs. Annually, the federal government spends over \$1.1 trillion on 134 welfare programs, with state and local governments contributing an additional \$744 billion. Since 1965, total anti-poverty spending has exceeded \$30 trillion.⁹⁵ However, the current welfare system has not been as effective as expected in helping Americans escape poverty. One major reason is the need for more transparency, clear management rules, and consistent eligibility criteria in this large, overlapping network of programs.⁹⁶ As a result, many genuinely poor individuals cannot access the support they need due to ambiguous and sometimes contradictory eligibility requirements and complex application processes.⁹⁷ Instead, benefits are often exploited by others with ulterior motives. Ultimately, it is not the poor who benefit

⁹⁴ CATO Institute, "Poverty and Welfare."

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

the most from the welfare system but interest groups—namely, the bureaucratic institutions that manipulate the system for their gain.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught the world a critical lesson: the importance of having long-term strategies to manage risks. When it comes to addressing poverty, the United States reveals another significant issue: the inability of the two major political parties to reach a consensus or cooperate on poverty-related solutions. As a result, many policies are subject to changes driven by political ideologies, preventing consistent and sustainable support for vulnerable populations. A prime example is child poverty in Upstate New York. During the pandemic, temporary federal interventions helped somewhat reduce child poverty rates. However, with the expiration or cancellation of these policies and uncertainties brought by new administrations, child poverty will reemerge as a lingering problem left by the previous government. The Child Poverty Reduction Act, led by New York Governor Kathy Hochul, illustrates this challenge. Without further federal support and Congressional backing to enforce it through legislation, the ambitious goals of this policy appear increasingly difficult to achieve.

Compared to the challenges highlighted in the United States, China has also faced difficulties and limitations in eliminating extreme poverty. Many rural residents have migrated to more developed areas for better job opportunities to escape poverty. However, due to China's hukou (household registration) system and limited access to education, housing, and other resources, many migrant workers are forced to leave their children behind in rural areas, often under the care of grandparents or, in some cases, left to fend for themselves.⁹⁸ These “left-behind children” face a lack of emotional support and academic assistance, with mental health issues being prevalent.⁹⁹ In the long term, their growth and development trajectories remain highly uncertain compared to children raised in urban areas, raising concerns about sustainable prosperity and social stability in rural regions.

⁹⁸ Ye and Lu, “Differentiated Childhoods: Impacts of Rural Labor Migration on Left-behind Children in China,” 1.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

Although China has declared the elimination of absolute poverty, the issue remains fragile, and preventing people from falling back into poverty is now a significant challenge. Many individuals who lived below the poverty line before 2020 remain vulnerable to various shocks, such as illness, unemployment, education expenses, natural disasters, or other unforeseen events, which could quickly push them back into poverty.¹⁰⁰ To address this, China must redefine its poverty standards and enhance the resilience of its policies to withstand these shocks better, ensuring the long-term sustainability of poverty alleviation efforts. Additionally, poverty alleviation has significantly burdened China's public finances. According to the Ministry of Finance estimates, funds allocated for poverty alleviation from 2018 to 2020 exceeded 1 trillion yuan (approximately \$140 billion USD).¹⁰¹ This substantial investment highlights the government's strong commitment to poverty reduction, but maintaining this level of funding in the long term imposes significant demands on public resources. Therefore, China must ensure that poverty alleviation efforts become financially sustainable without overreliance on public funds. Beyond central government support, greater participation from social organizations, businesses, and individuals should be encouraged to share the financial burden. This would reduce the strain on state resources while fostering a more sustainable approach to poverty alleviation.

Therefore, the United States and China have developed two distinct poverty alleviation models and practical experiences over their long-term developments. From the perspective of social participation, the U.S. has a well-established collaborative system with significant groundwork driven by nonprofit organizations. This fosters a bottom-up awareness of poverty relief and reduction within civil society, creating a positive mechanism where the government and society jointly address poverty issues. In contrast, China's poverty alleviation efforts are primarily centralized, with the government playing a dominant role, while social welfare

¹⁰⁰ IFAD, "China's Remaining Challenges in Reducing Poverty."

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

organizations often serve a supplementary function. This centralization not only limits the efficiency of policy implementation but may also fail to adequately address the welfare of citizens, potentially leading to confusion and conflict. China performs better in terms of identifying the needs of impoverished groups. The TPA program emphasizes precise identification of the assistance needed and the specific requirements of poverty-stricken households. Specific strategies include the development of transparent records for impoverished families and using electronic registration systems to accurately identify poor households and villages, ensuring that resources are better allocated to those in need.¹⁰² This approach reduces resource waste and helps the government stay informed about local community conditions.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, poverty is a global challenge faced by all countries. As the world's superpowers, the United States and China demonstrate their commitment to eliminating poverty through their respective policies. By comparing the historical evolution of these policies and analyzing case studies from New York State and Yunnan Province, it becomes clear that poverty alleviation is a highly complex and fragile long-term process. The major challenge for the U.S. today is ensuring the long-term stability of policies during political transitions between parties and simplifying and clarifying the application criteria for social welfare programs. Conversely, China faces the task of addressing relative poverty after eliminating extreme poverty, ensuring the long-term sustainability of poverty reduction projects, and preventing a large-scale return to poverty among key populations. Ultimately, both countries' poverty alleviation achievements and critical analyses can serve as valuable lessons and references for other nations. More importantly, the U.S. and China can collaborate on combating global poverty and achieving the SDG goals, underscoring the responsibility and capability of the world's two largest countries in addressing complex global challenges.

¹⁰² Tricontinental, "How Targeted Poverty Alleviation Has Changed the Structure of Rural Governance in China."

This collaboration can also inspire and encourage other countries to join the fight against poverty.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Media Outlets

Arpey, Jack. "N.Y. Council Tasked with Cutting Child Poverty in Half by 2031 Moves Closer to Issuing Recommendations." Spectrum News, 2024. https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2024/08/07/child-poverty-taskforce-meets-?cid=app_share.

Ding, Gang. "Yunnan Farmers Escape Poverty by Selling Coffee Beans to Europe." Global Times, May 31, 2023. <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202305/1291689.shtml>.

Gault, Alex. "\$8.97B Plan Aims to Cut NY Child Poverty by More than Half." NYup.com, November 20, 2024. <https://www.newyorkupstate.com/news/2024/11/897-billion-plan-aims-to-cut-ny-rate-of-child-poverty-by-more-than-half.html?outputType=amp>.

Park, Kunwoong, Fan Yang, Judy Kang, Yereth Jansen, Zhou Mengya, Jim Goodman, and Pieter Crow. "High-Speed Railway Connects Yunnan's Remote Lincang County." GoKunming, January 22, 2021. <https://www.gokunming.com/en/blog/item/4518/high-speed-railway-connects-yunnans-remote-lincang-county>.

Wang, Xiaoyi. "How Targeted Poverty Alleviation Has Changed the Structure of Rural Governance in China." Tricontinental, June 27, 2023. <https://thetricontinental.org/wenhua-zongheng-2023-2-targeted-poverty-alleviation-rural-governance/>.

Wang, Jianfen. "Yunnan Succeeds in Eliminating Poverty." Chinadaily.com.cn, September 6, 2022. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202209/06/WS63174291a310fd2b29e7647d.html>

International Organization Report

World Bank Group. "Lifting 800 Million People out of Poverty – New Report Looks at Lessons from China's Experience." World Bank, September 25, 2023. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/04/01/lifting-800-million-people-out-of-poverty-new-report-looks-at-lessons-from-china-s-experience>.

Govt. Reports and Press Releases

"China Foundation for Rural Development annual report 2023." China Foundation for Rural Development. https://img.cfpa.org.cn/gwfiles/file/20240905/20240905161636_9034.pdf

"Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council 2023 Progress Report." Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council, 2023. <https://otda.ny.gov/CPRAC/reports/CPRAC-Progress-Report-2023.pdf>.

Chaudry, Ajay, Christopher Wimer, Suzanne Macartney, Lauren Frohlich, Colin Campbell, Kendall Swenson, Don Oellerich, and Susan Hauan. "Poverty in the United States: 50-Year Trends and Safety Net Impacts." Office of Human Services Policy Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (2016): 1.

"Households' Income and Consumption Expenditure in 2022." National Bureau of Statistics of China, January 18, 2023. https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202301/t20230118_1892303.html.

Secondary Sources

Angang, H., Linlin, H., Zhixiao, C. (2005). China's Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (1978–2002). In: Tseng, W., Cowen, D. (eds) India's and China's Recent Experience with Reform and Growth. Procyclicality of Financial Systems in Asia. Palgrave Macmillan, London.

https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230505759_3

Arpey, Jack. "How the Election Could Impact the Federal Child Tax Credit." How the election could impact the federal child tax credit, November 1, 2024. <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2024/11/01/child-care-election-issues->.

Burke, Molly. "Child Poverty in New York among Worst in Nation, Report Says." Times Union, May 19, 2024. <https://www.timesunion.com/state/article/child-poverty-new-york-higher-pre-pandemic-level-19466586.php>.

Berger, Lawrence M., Maria Cancian, and Katherine Magnuson. "Anti-Poverty Policy Innovations: New Proposals for Addressing Poverty in the United States." RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences 4, no. 2 (February 2018): 1. <https://doi.org/10.7758/rsf.2018.4.2.01>.

Brauer, Carl M. "Kennedy, Johnson, and the War on Poverty." The Journal of American History 69, no. 1 (June 1982): 98. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1887754>.

Bacheller, John. "The Crisis of Poverty in Upstate New York Cities." John Bacheller, November 28, 2015. <https://policybynumbers.com/16-2>.

"China's XI Declares Victory in Ending Extreme Poverty." BBC News, February 25, 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56194622>.

China Power Team. "Is China Succeeding at Eradicating Poverty?" China Power. October 23, 2020. Updated May 12, 2021. Accessed December 18, 2024. <https://chinapower.csis.org/poverty/>

"Ending Poverty." United Nations. Accessed December 17, 2024. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/ending-poverty>.

Fang, Yingfeng, and Fen Zhang. "The Future Path to China's Poverty Reduction—Dynamic Decomposition Analysis with the Evolution of China's Poverty Reduction Policies." Social Indicators Research 158, no. 2 (May 18, 2021): 507–38. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-021-02716-5>.

Feng, Zhaorui, and Chang Chen. "Study on the Implementation Measures of Yunnan's Big Poverty Alleviation Strategy under the Vision of Multi-Center Collaborative Governance." Proceedings of the 2019 5th International Conference on Social Science and Higher Education (ICSSHE 2019), 2019. <https://doi.org/10.2991/icsshe-19.2019.152>.

Gurley, Lauren. "Who's Afraid of Rural Poverty? The Story behind America's Invisible Poor." The American Journal of Economics and Sociology 75, no. 3 (May 2016): 589–604. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12149>.

Golden, Olivia, and Vivian Tseng. "Cutting Child Poverty in Half and More: Pandemic-Era Lessons from Child and Family Advocates and Organizers Webinar." Foundation For Child Development, August 29, 2024. <https://www.fcd-us.org/cutting-child-poverty-in-half-and-more-pandemic-era-lessons-from-child-and-family-advocates-and-organizers-webinar/>.

"How We Work." World Bank. Accessed December 17, 2024. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/understanding-poverty>.

Hasell, Joe, Max Roser, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina, and Pablo Arriagada. "Poverty." Our World in Data, December 28, 2023. <https://ourworldindata.org/poverty>.

Hardman, John. "The Great Depression and the New Deal." EDGE. Accessed December 17, 2024. https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297c/poverty_prejudice/soc_sec/hgreat.htm.

Jarmuth, Anna. "Ethnic Minorities and the Fight against Poverty in China: The Case of Yunnan." Institute for Security and Development Policy, September 22, 2020. <https://www.isdp.eu/ethnic-minorities-and-the-fight-against-poverty-in-china-the-case-of-yunnan/>.

Jingzhong, Ye, and Pan Lu. "Differentiated Childhoods: Impacts of Rural Labor Migration on Left-behind Children in China." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 38, no. 2 (March 2011): 355–77. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2011.559012>.

Krogstad, Jens Manuel. "How the Geography of U.S. Poverty Has Shifted since 1960." Pew Research Center, September 10, 2015. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2015/09/10/how-the-geography-of-u-s-poverty-has-shifted-since-1960/>.

Larson, Christina. "Rich Man, Pu'er Man." *Foreign Policy*, November 19, 2024. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/10/30/why-puer-tea-is-the-next-big-asset-class-transforming-chinas-villages-green-gold/>.

Liu, Lu. "Poverty Reduction in a Transforming China: A Critical Review." *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 27, no. 4 (July 29, 2022): 771–91. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11366-022-09822-2>.

"Lyndon B. Johnson: Domestic Affairs." Miller Center, October 16, 2024. <https://millercenter.org/president/lbjohnson/domestic-affairs>.

Matthews, Dylan. "Trump Proposed Big Medicaid and Food Stamp Cuts. Can He Pass Them?" *Vox*, November 6, 2024. <https://www.vox.com/policy/383186/trump-vance-medicaid-food-stamps-obamacare-poverty>.

McClymer, John F., and Bruce S. Jansson. "The Reluctant Welfare State: A History of American Social Welfare Policies." *The Journal of American History* 75, no. 3 (December 1988): 900. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1901565>.

McConville, Francis. "The 50 US States' GDP Compared to Countries - PGC Group: Employer of Record - USA & Canada." PGC Group | Employer of Record - USA & Canada, December 3, 2024. <https://pgcgroup.com/blog/us-states-gdp-compared-to-countries>.

"Migration & Poverty Alleviation in China." International Organization for Migration, March 19, 2007. <https://www.iom.int/news/migration-poverty-alleviation-china>.

Marchisio, Matteo. "China's Remaining Challenges in Reducing Poverty." IFAD, November 4, 2019. <https://www.ifad.org/en/w/opinions/china-s-remaining-challenges-in-reducing-poverty>.

"New Yorkers in Need: A Look at Poverty Trends in New York State for the Last Decade." Office of the New York State Comptroller, December 2022. <https://www.osc.ny.gov/reports/new-yorkers-need-look-poverty-trends-new-york-state-last-decade>.

Pendall, Rolf, and Susan Christopherson. "Losing Ground: Income and Poverty in Upstate New York, 1980-2000." Brookings, July 28, 2016. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/losing-ground-income-and-poverty-in-upstate-new-york-1980-2000/>.

"Starbucks' Farming Centers in Yunnan." *BORGEN Magazine*, October 5, 2020. <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/farming-centers-in-yunnan/>.

Sheffield, Rachel, and Robert Rector. "The War on Poverty after 50 Years." The Heritage Foundation, September 15, 2014. <https://www.heritage.org/poverty-and-inequality/report/the-war-poverty-after-50-years>.

"Transforming China's Yunnan Province: Better Water Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future." World Bank Group, October 1, 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2019/10/02/transforming-chinas-yunnan-province-better-water-infrastructure-for-a-sustainable-future>.

Tanner, Michael D. "Poverty and Welfare." Cato.org, 2022. <https://www.cato.org/cato-handbook-policymakers/cato-handbook-policymakers-9th-edition-2022/poverty-welfare#>.

"U.S. Welfare Programs." Federal Safety Net, August 9, 2024. <https://federalsafetynet.com/welfare-programs/>.

Wang, Yunhui, Yihua Chen, and Zhiying Li. "Escaping Poverty: Changing Characteristics of China's Rural Poverty Reduction Policy and Future Trends." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 11, no. 1 (May 30, 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03204-0>.

Yan, Kun. *Poverty alleviation in China: A theoretical and empirical study*. Heidelberg: Springer, 2016.

Yang, Mingyu, Luc Hens, Xiaokun Ou, and Robert De Wulf. "Tourism: An Alternative to Development?" *Mountain Research and Development* 29, no. 1 (February 2009): 75–81. <https://doi.org/10.1659/mrd.1051>.

Zremski, Jerry. "Down-and-out Upstate." *City Journal*, March 23, 2023. <https://www.city-journal.org/article/down-and-out-upstate>.

Zhang, Aimei. "Poverty Alleviation in China: Commitment, Policies, and Expenditures." UNDP, 1993. https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/ameizhang_0.pdf.

Zhou, Jingjing, Yaoyu Zhang, Yong Sha, Jianfang Zhou, Hang Ren, Xin Shen, and Hui Xu. "The Effect of the 'Triple-Layer Medical Security' Policy on the Vulnerability as Expected Poverty of Rural Households: Evidence from Yunnan Province, China." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 19, no. 19 (October 10, 2022): 12936. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191912936>.