

Exploring Elizabethan Poor Laws



The Elizabethan Poor Laws were a series of measures taken during the reign of _____ I to address the growing issue of poverty. With the dissolution of _____ in the previous century, many of the traditional forms of _____ for the poor had disappeared. As a result, vagrancy and begging became widespread _____. In 1572, the government began to take serious action by passing the Vagabonds _____, which was designed to control the problem of vagrancy and enforce local responsibility for the _____.

Under these laws, each parish was required to tax its wealthier residents to raise money for the relief of the _____. This approach marked the beginnings of a state-sponsored welfare system. Justices of the Peace were tasked with creating _____ of the poor and determining how much aid they should receive. This aid could come in the form of food, _____, or monetary assistance.

The laws also distinguished between the 'deserving' and 'undeserving' poor. The deserving poor included the elderly, _____, and those unable to work due to disability. They were provided with relief in a manner that aimed to maintain their _____. On the other hand, the undeserving poor, who were seen as able-bodied but unwilling to work, faced _____ and were sometimes put to work in houses of correction.

In addition, the 1601 Act for the _____ of the Poor, often referred to as the Elizabethan Poor Law, formalized earlier measures and created a comprehensive system for _____ relief that lasted well into the 19th century. This law is considered a critical development in the history of social _____.

These laws not only addressed the immediate issues of poverty but also reflected a shift in societal _____ towards a more organized and community-based response to social problems. They laid the groundwork for future _____ in social welfare and influenced how governments perceived their responsibilities towards their vulnerable _____.

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