

The Settlement of the Poor in England, c.1660–1780

Law, Society, and State Formation

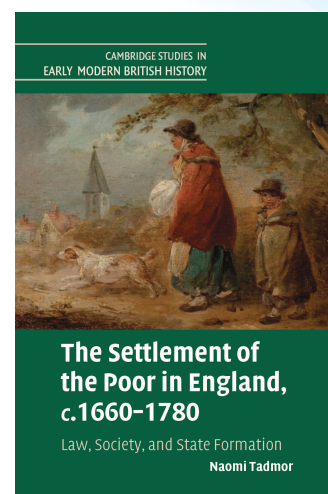
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In 1662, in the aftermath of the Restoration, parliament passed new legislation for the settlement and removal of the poor. Important provisions were finalised in no more than a few days. But once the settlement of the poor was set in law it became an agent of historical change that affected society, state formation, and the lives of millions in Britain and beyond for centuries to come. Within a few decades, practices of local government were transformed. In towns and villages hierarchies of social status and gender were affected. The rising empire employed the settlement administration to mobilise forces for large-scale international wars and to deal with soldiers' wives and children left behind. The huge number of bureaucratic forms generated following the new policies made a lasting impact on administrative culture. The Settlement of the Poor in England is about social change and about history's unintended consequences. It is also about the struggles and experiences of individuals and communities. It reminds us how the settlement legislation still resonates today.

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Figures and tables; List of Plates; List of Abbreviations; Introduction; 1. The Birth of Settlement; 2. The Settlement of the Poor and the Rise of the Form; 3. Kinship, Community, and Settlement; 4. Governance, Gender, Social Status, and Settlement: or, Where Was Mrs Turner?; 5. The Settlement of the Fiscal-Military State; Conclusion; Select bibliography.



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