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INVITE 4/25: The Age of Responsibility: Luck, Choice, and the Welfare State

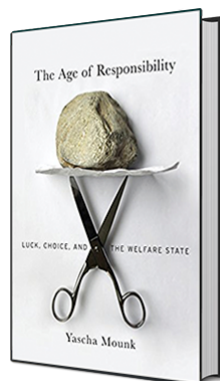
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Mon, Apr 17, 2017 at 3:18 PM



The Age of Responsibility: Luck, Choice, and the Welfare State

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In the postwar years, if people were hungry, it was the state's job to feed them — even if their going hungry was the result of their own poorly-managed finances. Today, that idea of welfare is barely recognizable.

Historians and sociologists have struggled to characterize our political moment. Various interpretations cite our "risk society" and that we live in

the "age of globalization" or have entered a "new Gilded Age." But **Yascha Mounk**'s new book, **The Age of Responsibility**, argues that we've entered an age in which *personal responsibility* has become not only a political watchword, but a cultural phenomenon.

Today, need-based assistance is often conditional on good, or "responsible," behavior. But when large swaths of the population feel that — despite their commitment to being responsible citizens — their standard of living continues to deteriorate, the welfare state is no longer fulfilling its function. Today's focus on individual culpability is both wrong and counterproductive; instead, Mounk argues, we need a conception of responsibility that doesn't punish individuals for past choices, but empowers them to take responsibility for themselves — and those around them.

Join **New America NYC** for a conversation with senior fellow **Yascha Mounk** and a panel of experts on the evolving nature of the welfare state and the meaning — and promise — of our responsibility to it.

PARTICIPANTS

Yascha Mounk [@Yascha_Mounk](#)

Senior Fellow, Political Reform Program, New America

Author, *The Age of Responsibility: Luck, Choice, and the Welfare State*

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Morgridge Fellow in Poverty Studies, American Enterprise Institute

Former Commissioner, Human Resources Administration, City of New York

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Professor of Political Science, Barnard College

Author, *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century*

The Age of Responsibility

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM ET

Interface

140 W 30th Street, New York, NY 10001

Copies of Yascha Mounk's [*The Age of Responsibility: Luck, Choice, and the Welfare State*](#) will be available for purchase.

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