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 swathes 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

Robert Doar @RobertDoar
Morgridge Fellow in Poverty Studies, American Enterprise Institute
Former Commissioner, Human Resources Administration, City of New York

Sheri Berman
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.

Join the conversation online by using #AgeofResponsibility and by following @NewAmericaNYC.

New America is dedicated to the renewal of American politics, prosperity, and purpose in the Digital Age. Our hallmarks are big ideas, impartial analysis, pragmatic policy solutions, technological innovation, next generation politics, and creative engagement with broad audiences.