

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Marian Moser Jones is a social historian and ethicist of public health who explores the institutionalization of benevolence in the United States. Her research examines how and why the American institutional sector has developed *to provide* for the health and survival needs of families, children, and other vulnerable populations in crisis situations, as well as how it has exercised the power *to decide* what is best for peoples' health and well-being. She defines benevolence broadly as encompassing activities that might be labeled "humanitarian," such as aid to people affected by a disaster; activities that might be considered "charitable" or "philanthropic," such as organizing a diaper drive for low-income parents or founding a homeless shelter; and activities that might be viewed as merely necessary to promote and protect health, such as establishing a poison control center. Such a broad definition is applied because dominant beliefs about public and private responsibility for individual and family health and welfare have shifted considerably in the U.S. during the past two centuries.

Jones' first peer-reviewed book, *The American Red Cross, from Clara Barton to the New Deal*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in December 2012. Her lead-authored article, "Poison Politics: A Contentious History of Consumer Protection against Dangerous Household Chemicals in the United States," received the 2012-2013 Article of the Year award from the *American Journal of Public Health*. In 2005, Jones published a commissioned monograph for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene entitled *Protecting Public Health in New York City: 200 Years of Leadership*. Jones teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on family health and on the history and practice of the human services. She received her Ph.D. and M.P.H. degrees in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, and her A.B. from Harvard College. She studied the history and sociology of science as a 2010-2011 De Witt Stetten postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health. She has previously taught at Virginia Commonwealth University and worked as a health and science journalist in New York City and Boston.