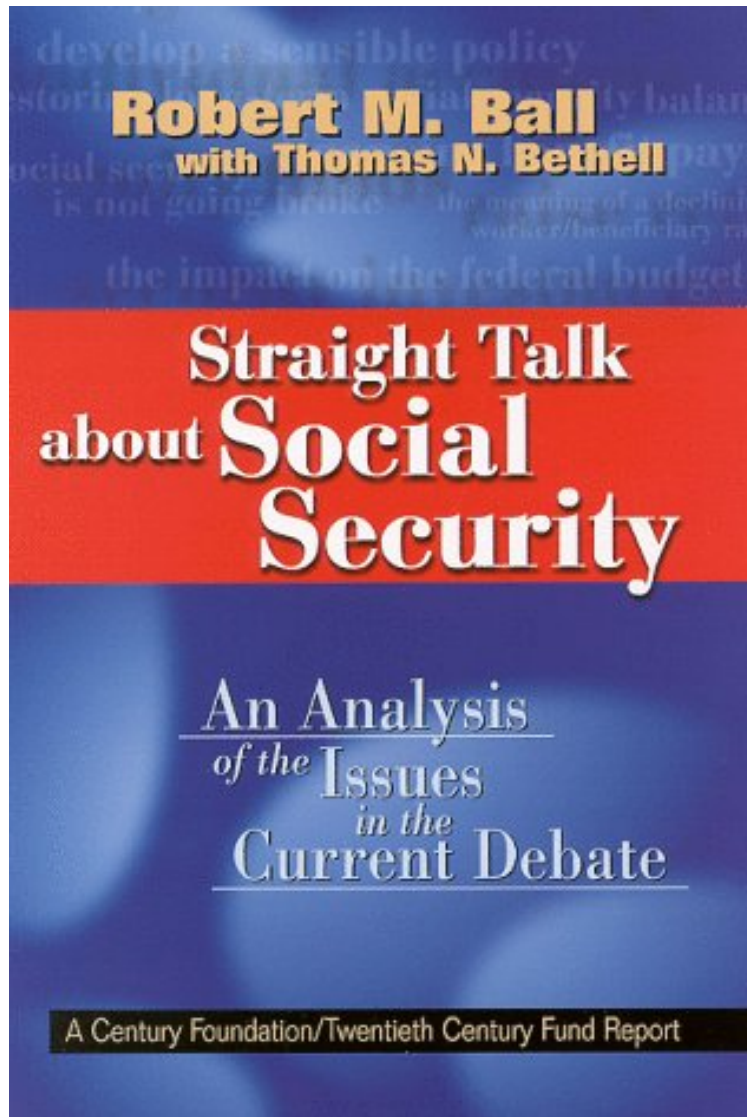


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Straight Talk about Social Security: An Analysis of the Issues in the Current Debate (Century Foundation/Twentieth Century Fund Report)

Robert M. Ball

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Much of the public concern about the future of Social Security stems from widespread misinformation about the financing of the present system -- misinformation reported so often that it has become part of the conventional wisdom. More than anything else, this accounts for the growing lack of confidence in the system, particularly among younger Americans, and adds to the difficulty of developing a sensible policy to address the manageable impact of the baby boom generation's future retirement. In this book, former commissioner of Social Security Robert M. Ball corrects an array of misunderstandings, analyzes the drawbacks of proposals to partially privatize the program, and provides his own ideas for reform. A straightforward analysis of the essential facts and figures concerning the program, economic projections, and the impact of various reform proposals, this book will help anyone who cares about one of the nation's most important policy debates to quickly understand why Social Security can be saved without radical overhaul.

About the Author Robert M. Ball joined the Social Security Board as a field assistant in 1939. He was staff director of the Social Security Advisory Council (1947-48) and served as commissioner of Social Security under Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. He is the founder of the National Academy of Social Insurance and the author of *Insuring the Essentials: Bob Ball on Social Security* (The Century Foundation Press, 2000). Thomas N. Bethell is a Washington, D.C., writer and editor who has frequently worked with Mr. Ball.