Why Trust Matters
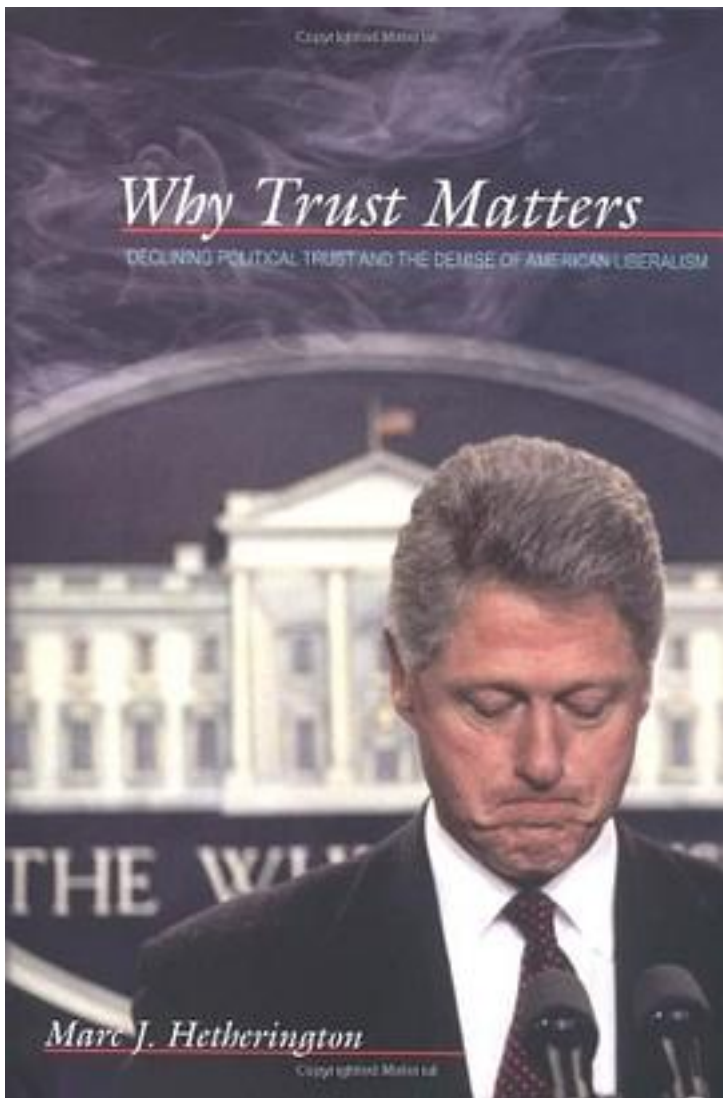
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American public policy has become demonstrably more conservative since the 1960s. Neither Jimmy Carter nor Bill Clinton was much like either John F. Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson. The American public, however, has not become more conservative. Why, then, the right turn in public policy? Using both individual and aggregate level survey data, Marc Hetherington shows that the rapid decline in Americans' political trust since the 1960s is critical to explaining this puzzle. As people lost faith in the federal government, the delivery system for most progressive policies, they supported progressive ideas much less. The 9/11 attacks increased such trust as public attention focused on security, but the effect was temporary. Specifically, Hetherington shows that, as political trust declined, so too did support for redistributive programs, such as welfare and food stamps, and race-targeted programs. While the presence of race in a policy area tends to make political trust important for whites, trust affects policy preferences in other, non-race-related policy areas as well. In the mid-1990s the public was easily swayed against comprehensive health-care reform because those who felt they could afford coverage worried that a large new federal bureaucracy would make things worse for them. In demonstrating a strong link between public opinion and policy outcomes, this engagingly written book represents a substantial contribution to the study of public opinion and voting behavior, policy, and American politics generally.

作者介绍:

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标签

政治学

公共行政

评论

翻书党#政治信任不管是美国的大事，也是中国的大事啊。这本书主要讲信任对不同政治行为的影响，尤其是投票。另外，好的学术书能把一个大问题如何分解成小问题讲得很清楚，这本书就是一例。

书评

基本上没怎么谈书，书还是得自己去看，我这算是有感而发。【缘起】
最近发生了很多显而易见的事，网友小结"马云马航马伊琍，失意失联失文章"，横批
"且行且珍惜"，还有一些不那么显见的大事。这些事件除去马云马伊琍属于明星效应
引发的围观之外，其他事件发生的背景都大相...