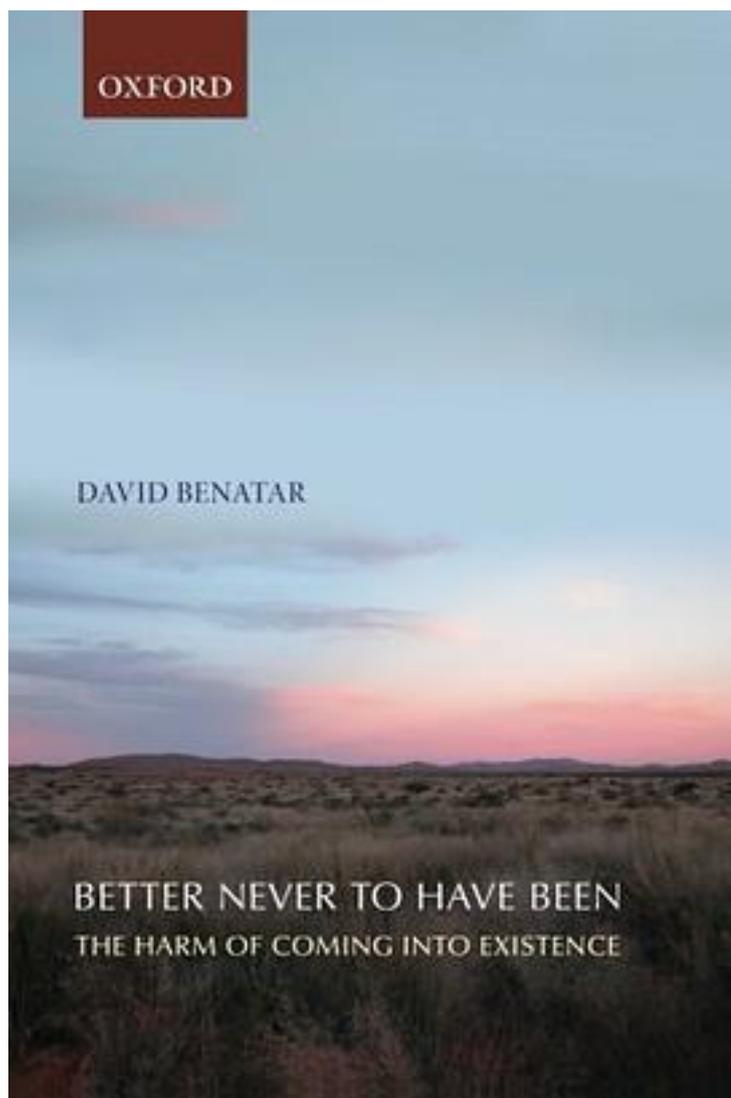


# Better Never to Have Been



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Most people believe that they were either benefited or at least not harmed by being brought into existence. Thus, if they ever do reflect on whether they should bring others into existence---rather than having children without even thinking about whether they should---they presume that they do them no harm. *Better Never to Have Been* challenges these assumptions. David Benatar argues that coming into existence is always a serious harm. Although the good things in one's life make one's life go better than it otherwise would have gone, one could not have been deprived by their absence if one had not existed. Those who never exist cannot be deprived. However, by coming into existence one does suffer quite serious harms that could not have befallen one had one not come into existence. Drawing on the relevant psychological literature, the author shows that there are a number of well-documented features of human psychology that explain why people systematically overestimate the quality of their lives and why they are thus resistant to the suggestion that they were seriously harmed by being brought into existence. The author then argues for the 'anti-natal' view---that it is always wrong to have children---and he shows that combining the anti-natal view with common pro-choice views about foetal moral status yield a 'pro-death' view about abortion (at the earlier stages of gestation). Anti-natalism also implies that it would be better if humanity became extinct. Although counter-intuitive for many, that implication is defended, not least by showing that it solves many conundrums of moral theory about population.

作者介绍:

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标签

评论

活着就是遭罪。

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书评

大部分人会认为，只有当一个生命在出生后所遭受的痛苦多于快乐时，我们才可以说这个生命不如不出生。在《宁可不曾存在过》（Better Never to Have Been）一书中，作者 David Benatar 认为事实并不仅仅如此。他通过哲学分析详细阐述了为什么出生总是一种伤害，为什么生育是不道...

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You'd better not to do that. 你最好别做这事。所以，Better to Never Have Been Born，意思是，最好从未出生。这句话其实深埋在悲剧性地理解人生的灵魂里。尼采在《悲剧的诞生》中记载过弥达斯国王遭遇的来自精灵的智商暴击：“最好的东西是你根本得不到的，这就是不要降生...

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基督徒可以不用读下去了，我这篇东西也好，这本书也好，都是。因为神叫你们要“生养众多”。人的话语怎能敌神的诫命呢？真的，其他有类似教条的信徒也一样。下文仅针对他们之外的人群。本书的核心观点在序言的第一段就明确给出：降生到世上总是伤害（coming into existence i...

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从思想性来讲，我认为 Dr. Benatar 的这本 Better Never to Have Been 已经做到了最好。其实反出生主义的核心概念比较好理解，我在另一篇文章[《为什么生孩子永远是个错误》]通过 Dr. Benatar 的论点证明了为什么生孩子对这个“潜在的孩子”来说永远是个错误，感兴趣的可以看一下。...

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