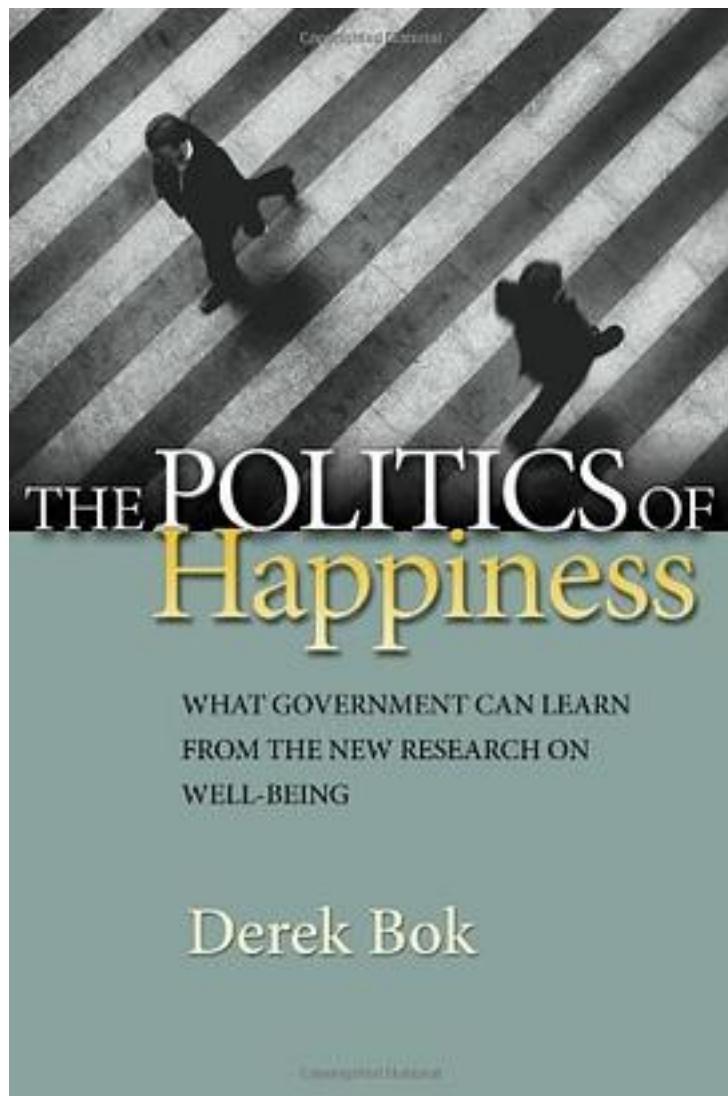


The Politics of Happiness



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During the past forty years, thousands of studies have been carried out on the subject of happiness. Some have explored the levels of happiness or dissatisfaction associated with typical daily activities, such as working, seeing friends, or doing household chores. Others have tried to determine the extent to which income, family, religion, and other factors are associated with the satisfaction people feel about their lives. The Gallup organization has begun conducting global surveys of happiness, and several countries are considering publishing periodic reports on the growth or decline of happiness among their people. One nation, tiny Bhutan, has actually made 'Gross National Happiness' the central aim of its domestic policy. How might happiness research affect government policy in the United States - and beyond? In "The Politics of Happiness", former Harvard president Derek Bok examines how governments could use the rapidly growing research data on what makes people happy - in a variety of policy areas to increase well-being and improve the quality of life for all their citizens. Bok first describes the principal findings of happiness researchers. He considers how reliable the results appear to be and whether they deserve to be taken into account in devising government policies. Recognizing both the strengths and weaknesses of happiness research, Bok looks at the policy implications for economic growth, equality, retirement, unemployment, health care, mental health, family programs, education, and government quality, among other subjects. Timely and incisive, "The Politics of Happiness" sheds new light on what makes people happy and how government policy could foster greater satisfaction for all.

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美国当代著名教育学家、法学家和社会学家，美国当代颇具影响力的大学校长之一，也是西方高等教育史上举足轻重的思想家和实践家。1971—1991年任哈佛第25任校长，任期长达20年，在任期间致力于哈佛大学课程改革，将效果不佳的通识教育转为课程教育，奠定了现代大学的课程标准，在美国乃至全世界都产生了巨大影响，被公认为美国教育界最有影响力的人物之一。他也是近50年来，任期最长的哈佛校长。退休之后，博克并没有隐居乡里，1999年，博克就任美国国家公共事务委员会主席一职，研究美国政府在国家公共事务中应发挥的作用和合理的方式。离任15年后，他再次重返哈佛于2006—2007年间担任代理校长，接替因歧视女研究者言论辞职的校长萨默斯。博克也因此成为哈佛大学历史上唯一一个两次担任过校长的人。

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