# The of the NATION

**How America is Really Doing** 



Marc Miringoff and Marque-Luisa Miringoff

# **Social Health Of The Nation How America Is Really Doing**

**Guillaume Favre** 

#### **Social Health Of The Nation How America Is Really Doing:**

The Social Health of the Nation Marc Miringoff, Marque-Luisa Miringoff, 1999-07-01 This book is written for people who are skeptical and uneasy when they hear politicians economists and reporters tell Americans You re never had it so good as they recite lists of leading economic indicators The Social Health of a Nation as its subtitle indicates tell us How America is Really Doing The facts in this book confirm what many American know intuitively they are not better off now not with income inequality at its worst level in fifty years not with more and more Americans dropped from insurance rolls not with thousands of Americans feeling the effects of corporate downsizing not with real wages on a long term decline This book provides the facts to see the rest of the picture the condition of the American national spirit that can never be revealed by economic indicators alone It also provides a forceful argument that without the social side of the picture Americans are in the dark about the nation's progress This book as not an ideological tract however It's purpose is portrayal not prescription Not everything reported is bad news an entire chapter is devoted to indicators of improving social performance Because it does not advocate for example a return to big government or any quick fix solution this book will be welcomed by readers from all parts of the political spectrum or of no particular political persuasion It will appeal to concerned individuals from business government clergy and other professions and to those who represent no interest group It will also be widely used as supplemental text in a variety of sociology economics and political science courses The Social Health of the Nation is written by two sociologists Marc and Luisa Miringoff Marc is currently the Professor of Social Welfare Policy at Fordham University Graduate Center and the founder and Director of the Fordham Institute for Innovation in Social Policy Luisa is Professor of Socioogy at Vassar College where she has served as Department Chair and Director of its Urban Studies Program Both earned Ph D degrees from the University of Chicago Since 1987 Marc has headed a research team to develop the Index of Social Health a nationally recognized social barometer that has been featured in ten New York Times and four Washington Post articles This index has commanded increasingly large electronic and print media attention because of its powerful presentation of trends in family life income health housing child poverty and other social indicators of everyday life in the United States The Social Health of the Nation will include the previously unreleased and very newsworthy Index for 1998 But it will contain much more Influenced by the effectiveness of the Index of Social Health in the summer of 1996 the Ford Foundation approached the authors with a plan Alarmed by a lack of government attention in the United States to monitoring the nation's social health the Foundation had a vision of creating a book building on the Index of Social Health to show what is needed to advance this field and deepen its impact To that end the Foundation provided financial assistance for the book s development by funding Miringoff's Fordham Institute for Innovation in Social Policy to convene a twenty five member team the Working Group on Social Indicators including nationally known pollster Daniel Yankelovich and Director of Research and Vice President of CNN Judy Milestone Each member of the Working Group was motivated to improve social reporting in the

United States They came from the media universities and government representing fields as diversse as law medicine sociology and economics The vision of the Ford Foundation with the assistance of this working group has now become a reality in The Social Health of the Nation a nine chapter book written by Marc and Margue Luisa Miringoff This book does show the other side of the Official Portrait of How America is Doing providing comprehensive coverage of improving shifting and worsening social performance It fills in the blanks after all the economic indicators are posted The book contains surprises the same kind that have been made the yearly release of the Social Index of Health a subject of media attention for twelve years an index whose 1998 figures will be released exclusively in this book While some of the indicators will shock other will give reason for hope as we see evidence of improved performance in unlikely places For those whose livelihoods and well being depend on the social health of the United States this book provides the information necessary to find creative solutions for improved performance For students in a wide range of courses this book will become required reading Social Health of the Nation Marc L. Miringoff, Marque-Luisa Miringoff, Sandra Opdycke, 2023 Christian Life and Practice Owen C. Thomas, 2009-01-01 This book is a study of the Christian life and the practice of Christians and the church from an Anglican perspective It begins with an analysis and explication of the structure and process of the Christian life before God in the church and the world involving a five fold rule of life and the relation of this to spiritual direction. This is followed by an analysis and critique of the current spirituality movement which arose in the 1970s and which has come to dominate and mislead the churches A sequel to the latter explains the origin of the spirituality movement in the current Romantic movement that arose in the 1960s and has influenced all aspects of our culture with ambiguous results Next there is a critique of contemporary parish ministry as practiced in residential parishes that at best ministers only to the private lives of its members followed by a fictional story of such a residential parish that suggests a new departure in parish ministry Then there is a critique of preaching in the Episcopal Church that is generally considered to be poor and a proposal of a way to overcome this The concluding three chapters treat a fundamental problem in our approach to private prayer and a way to resolve this a proposal for a way to overcome the current impasse in the Anglican Communion concerning homosexuality and a meditation on the responsibility of Christians in public life **Governing America** Robert Singh, 2003 Governing America is an innovative edited textbook designed for first time students of American politics Written by an international team of experts this volume offers an accessible and comprehensive examination of American politics both before and after September 11 Divided into four parts the volume opens with an introduction to the main theoretical and historical surveys of American politics and foreign policy Part Two analyzes the key institutions of American government Part Three examines a range of public policies and Part Four assesses a series of contemporary issues and controversies Manufacturing Consent Edward S. Herman, Noam Chomsky, 2011-07-06 A compelling indictment of the news media s role in covering up errors and deceptions The New York Times Book Review due to the underlying economics of publishing from famed scholars Edward S

Herman and Noam Chomsky With a new introduction In this pathbreaking work Edward S Herman and Noam Chomsky show that contrary to the usual image of the news media as cantankerous obstinate and ubiquitous in their search for truth and defense of justice in their actual practice they defend the economic social and political agendas of the privileged groups that dominate domestic society the state and the global order Based on a series of case studies including the media s dichotomous treatment of worthy versus unworthy victims legitimizing and meaningless Third World elections and devastating critiques of media coverage of the U S wars against Indochina Herman and Chomsky draw on decades of criticism and research to propose a Propaganda Model to explain the media's behavior and performance Their new introduction updates the Propaganda Model and the earlier case studies and it discusses several other applications These include the manner in which the media covered the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement and subsequent Mexican financial meltdown of 1994 1995 the media's handling of the protests against the World Trade Organization World Bank and International Monetary Fund in 1999 and 2000 and the media's treatment of the chemical industry and its regulation What emerges from this work is a powerful assessment of how propagandistic the U S mass media are how they systematically fail to live up to their self image as providers of the kind of information that people need to make sense of the world and how we can understand their function in a radically new way What Has Happened to the Quality of Life in the Advanced <u>Industrialized Nations?</u> Edward N. Wolff, Jerome Levy Economics Institute, 2004-01-01 Although per capita income in the United States outstripped that in other developed countries during the 1990s it is questionable if the levels of welfare services that it provides to its citizens has kept pace This study examines how the standard of living is measured Split Mark D. Brewer, Jeffrey M. Stonecash, 2007 Talk of politics in the United States today is abuzz with warring red and blue factions The message is that Americans are split due to deeply held beliefs over abortion gay marriage stem cell research prayer in public schools Is this cultural divide a myth the product of elite partisans Or is the split real Yes argue authors Mark Brewer and Jeffrey Stonecash the cultural divisions are real Yet they tell only half the story Differences in income and economic opportunity also fuel division a split along class lines Cultural issues have not displaced class issues as many believe Split shows that both divisions coexist meaning that levels of taxation and the quality of healthcare matter just as much as the debate over the right to life versus the right to choose The authors offer balanced objective analysis complete with a wealth of data rich figures and tables to explain the social trends underlying these class and cultural divides and then explore the response of the parties and voters Offering solid empirical evidence the authors show that how politicians the media and interest groups perceive citizen preferences be they cultural or class based determines whether or not the public gets what it wants Simply put each set of issues creates political conflict and debate that produce very different policies and laws With a lively and highly readable narrative students at every level will appreciate the brevity and punch of Split and **Economic** come away with a more nuanced understanding of the divisions that drive the current American polity

Globalization and the Citizens' Welfare State Hiroto Tsukada,2017-10-05 This title was first published in 2001 Examining the future of the welfare state in four globalizing economies Sweden UK Japan and US this book presents a detailed analysis of the ways in which social and economic aspects of these welfare states have altered under growing market first ideology and economic globalization The book will be essential reading for all those interested in the present and future of the welfare state both through its theoretical perspectives and because of the thorough attention paid to the health of society today

Categorically Unequal Douglas S. Massey, 2007-04-02 The United States holds the dubious distinction of having the most unequal income distribution of any advanced industrialized nation While other developed countries face similar challenges from globalization and technological change none rivals America's singularly poor record for equitably distributing the benefits and burdens of recent economic shifts In Categorically Unequal Douglas Massey weaves together history political economy and even neuropsychology to provide a comprehensive explanation of how America's culture and political system perpetuates inequalities between different segments of the population Categorically Unequal is striking both for its theoretical originality and for the breadth of topics it covers Massey argues that social inequalities arise from the universal human tendency to place others into social categories In America ethnic minorities women and the poor have consistently been the targets of stereotyping and as a result they have been exploited and discriminated against throughout the nation s history African Americans continue to face discrimination in markets for jobs housing and credit Meanwhile the militarization of the U S Mexican border has discouraged Mexican migrants from leaving the United States creating a pool of exploitable workers who lack the legal rights of citizens Massey also shows that women s advances in the labor market have been concentrated among the affluent and well educated while low skilled female workers have been relegated to occupations that offer few chances for earnings mobility At the same time as the wages of low income men have fallen more working class women are remaining unmarried and raising children on their own Even as minorities and women continue to face these obstacles the progressive legacy of the New Deal has come under frontal assault The government has passed anti union legislation made taxes more regressive allowed the real value of the federal minimum wage to decline and drastically cut social welfare spending As a result the income gap between the richest and poorest has dramatically widened since 1980 Massey attributes these anti poor policies in part to the increasing segregation of neighborhoods by income which has insulated the affluent from the social consequences of poverty and to the disenfranchisement of the poor as the population of immigrants prisoners and ex felons swells America s unrivaled disparities are not simply the inevitable result of globalization and technological change As Massey shows privileged groups have systematically exploited and excluded many of their fellow Americans By delving into the root causes of inequality in America Categorically Unequal provides a compelling argument for the creation of a more equitable society A Volume in the Russell Sage Foundation's Centennial Series

Forum on Key National Indicators, 2004-03 On Feb 27 2003 the General Accounting Office GAO in cooperation with

the National Academies hosted a forum on key national indicators. The purpose of the forum was to have a rich and meaningful dialogue on whether and how to develop a set of key national indicators for the U S The forum brought together a diverse group of national leaders to discuss the following How are the world s leading democracies measuring national performance What might the U S do to improve its approach and why What are important areas to measure in assessing U S national performance How might new U S approaches be led and implemented Charts and tables Damned Lies and Statistics Joel Best, 2012-08-07 Here by popular demand is the updated edition to Joel Best's classic guide to understanding how numbers can confuse us In his new afterword Best uses examples from recent policy debates to reflect on the challenges to improving statistical literacy Since its publication ten years ago Damned Lies and Statistics has emerged as the go to handbook for spotting bad statistics and learning to think critically about these influential numbers Chic Ironic Bitterness R. Jay Magill, Jr., 2009-12-18 A brilliant and timely reflection on irony in contemporary American culture This book is a powerful and persuasive defense of sophisticated irony and subtle humor that contributes to the possibility of a genuine civic trust and democratic life R Jay Magill deserves our congratulations for a superb job Cornel West University Professor Princeton University A well written well argued assessment of the importance of irony in contemporary American social life along with the nature of recent misguided attacks and happily a deep conviction that irony is too important in our lives to succumb The book reflects wide reading varied experience and real analytical prowess Peter Stearns Provost George Mason University Somehow Americans a pragmatic and colloquial lot for the most part are now supposed to speak the Word without ironic embellishment in order to rebuild the civic culture So irony s critics decide it has become worthy of moral condemnation Magill pushes back against this new conventional wisdom eloquently defending a much livelier American sensibility than the many apologists for a somber civic culture could ever acknowledge William Chaloupka Chair and Professor Department of Political Science Colorado State University The events of 9 11 had many pundits on the left and right scrambling to declare an end to the Age of Irony But six years on we re as ironic as ever From The Simpsons and Borat to The Daily Show and The Colbert Report the ironic worldview measures out a certain cosmopolitan distance keeping hypocrisy and threats to personal integrity at bay Chic Ironic Bitterness is a defense of this detachment an attitude that helps us preserve values such as authenticity sincerity and seriousness that might otherwise be lost in a world filled with spin marketing and jargon And it is an effective counterweight to the prevailing conservative view that irony is the first step toward cynicism and the breakdown of Western culture R Jay Magill Jr is a writer and illustrator whose work has appeared in American Prospect American Interest Atlantic Monthly Foreign Policy International Herald Tribune New York Times Wall Street Journal and Print amongother periodicals and books A former Harvard Teaching Fellow and Executive Editor of Double Take he holds a Ph D in American Studies from the University of Hamburg in Germany This is his first book Public *Policy* Michael E. Kraft, Scott R. Furlong, 2020-01-07 Kraft and Furlong provide students with a conceptual understanding of

public issues and how the public policy process functions This book also provides a forum for discussions of social economic and sustainable development issues their characteristics and impacts on human beings citizens as well as the environment It will give students the needed tools to make informed economic and human development decisions that could lead to sustainable growth human capacity building and better lives Robert Dibie Indiana University Kokomo With the right information we can develop public policies that work better All too often public policy textbooks offer a basic grounding in the policy process without the benefit of integrating the use of policy analysis Kraft and Furlong take a different tack Public Policy Politics Analysis and Alternatives Seventh Edition helps students understand how and why policy analysis is used to assess policy alternatives The text encourages them to not only question the assumptions of policy analysts but also recognize how these strategies are used in the support of political arguments. The authors introduce and fully integrate an evaluative approach to policy to encourage critical and creative thinking on issues ranging from health care to climate change From a concise review of institutions policy actors and major theoretical models to a discussion of the nature of policy analysis and its practice Kraft and Furlong show students how to employ evaluative criteria in six substantive policy areas Students come away with the analytic tools they need to understand that the motivations of policy actors both within and outside of government influence a complex yet comprehensible policy agenda A Complete Teaching Learning Package LMS Cartridge formally known as SAGE Coursepacks Import this title s instructor resources into your school s learning management system LMS and save time Don t use an LMS You can still access all of the same online resources for this title via the password protected Instructor Resource Site Rich, Free, and Miserable John Brueggemann, 2023-06-14 Compared to much of the rest of the world America and its citizens are rich But many people are also deeply miserable at work at home or both In this provocative book author John Bruggemann unpacks why so many people are struggling both emotionally and financially in a nation that looks so prosperous on the surface From a hospital patient reduced to a balance sheet to a parent working such long hours that he misses dinner Brueggemann argues that market thinking has permeated every corner of our lives In the pursuit of more and better relationships erode to the detriment of individuals communities and the nation as a whole Rich Free and Miserable not only outlines these pressing social problems but also offers practical suggestions for people looking to make a positive change Aging Across the United States Charles Lockhart, Jean Giles-Sims, 2013-01-31 Older Americans experience stages of aging with distinct priorities For younger retirees climate can be most important for older retirees quality of health care Various states support these and other priorities to sharply different degrees While many Americans know which states offer mild climates for outdoor recreation they rarely know which states offer the best medical care to Medicare patients This book tells them and suggests sequential moves to take advantage of states varying strengths Community Quality-of-Life Indicators: Best Cases VI M. Joseph Sirgy, Rhonda Phillips, Don Rahtz, 2013-05-24 This book is the sixth in a series covering bet practices in community quality of life QOL

indicators. The cases in this volume describe communities that have launched their own community indicators programs Elements that are included in the descriptions are the history of the community indicators work within the target region the planning of community indicators the actual indicators that were selected the data collection process the reporting of the results and the use of the indicators to guide community development decisions and public policy The Political Economy of Work and Family in America Steven K. Wisensale, 2015-05-15 Written in an accessible case study format this groundbreaking work explores the formulation implementation and evaluation of family leave policy in the United States from its beginnings at the state level in the early 1980s through the adoption of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and beyond to the present day With a political economy perspective the book identifies the major economic and social forces affecting both the family and the workplace And drawing on original primary research it examines how the political system has responded to this evolving issue with various policy initiatives Bodies in Society Margaret R. Miles, 2008-08-01 Education is about learning to think Much of what we call thinking however is a hodge podge of repetitious self talk opinion and cutting and pasting of second hand ideas Moreover thinking in the present has often been alien to scholars who were tempted to think abstractly But life and thought belong together and require each other as Plotinus pointed out many centuries ago T he object of contemplation is living and life and the two together are one Ennead 3 8 8 Presently many women and men in the academic world are thinking concretely within the context of their own lives and with acknowledged accountability to broader communities with whom they think and to whom they are answerable The essays in this volume consider Christianity as an aspect of North American culture bringing the critical tools of the academy to thinking about some of the perplexing and pressing problems of contemporary public life Three interactive and interdependent themes traverse these essays gender the effects of media culture and institutions Each of these themes has been central to Margaret Miles s work for thirty years Each understands corporeality as fundamental both to subjectivity and society Miles finds that Christianity critically appropriated provides ideas and methods for thinking concretely about life in The European Dream Jeremy Rifkin, 2013-04-24 At one time the American Dream was the ideal North American society and envy of the world But today at the dawn of the new Millennium Europe is pointing a new way to the future In this major new book best selling author Jeremy Rifkin argues that Europe has a vision of its own and is overtaking America as the world s next superpower The American Dream was based on economic growth personal wealth and independence It was synonymous with love of country and patriotism frontier mentality and the unbridled exercise of power Yet what were once considered prime virtues cherished and idealised not only in America but throughout the world are increasingly seen by many as drawbacks and even impediments But while the American Dream tires and languishes in the past a new European Dream is being born Today we see a new set of values emerging which are focused on sustainable development quality of life and multilateralism More cosmopolitan and less concerned with the brute exercise of power the European Dream is better

positioned to accommodate the many forces that are propelling us into a more interconnected and interdependent world Where does Britain fit into this story The British find themselves betwixt and between a fading American Dream and a newly emerging European Dream which is gaining the upper hand in our contemporary global age Rifkin argues that Britain is uniquely positioned to play a bridge role between Europe and America and has the potential to help create a synergy between the two superpowers of the 21st century But in order to exercise any real influence in world affairs Britain must choose to be part of a larger political entity In a globally connected world no people can exist any longer as an island unto themselves The only question for Britain is whether it will make its home with America or with Europe and Labour in the Twenty-First Century Verity Burgmann, 2016-04-14 The Open Access version of this book available at http www tandfebooks com has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives 3 0 license Globalization has adversely affected working class organization and mobilization increasing inequality by redistribution upwards from labour to capital However workers around the world are challenging their increased exploitation by globalizing corporations In developed countries many unions are transforming themselves to confront employer power in ways more appropriate to contemporary circumstances in developing countries militant new labour movements are emerging Drawing upon insights in anti determinist Marxian perspectives Verity Burgmann shows how working class resistance is not futile as protagonists of globalization often claim She identifies eight characteristics of globalization harmful to workers and describes and analyses how they have responded collectively to these problems since 1990 and especially this century With case studies from around the world including Greece since 2008 she pays particular attention to new types of labour movement organization and mobilization that are not simply defensive reactions but are offensive and innovative responses that compel corporations or political institutions to change Aging and less agile manifestations of the labour movement decline while new expressions of working class organization and mobilization arise to better battle with corporate globalization This book will be of interest to students and scholars of labour studies globalization political economy Marxism and sociology of work

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#### Social Health Of The Nation How America Is Really Doing Introduction

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