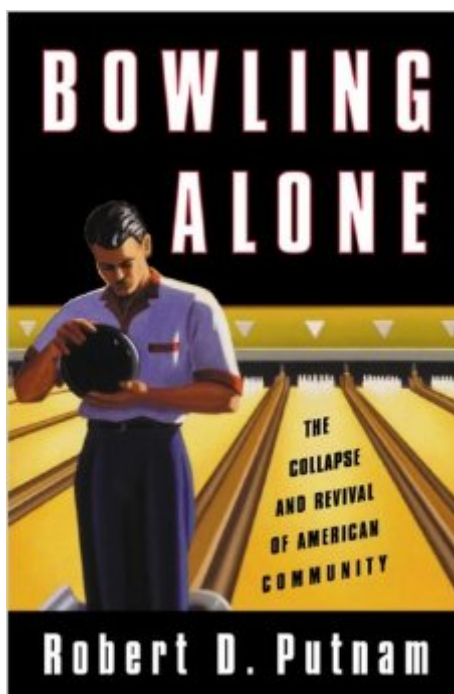


The book was found

Bowling Alone



Synopsis

Once we bowled in leagues, usually after work -- but no longer. This seemingly small phenomenon symbolizes a significant social change that Robert Putnam has identified in this brilliant volume, *Bowling Alone*, which *The Economist* hailed as "a prodigious achievement." Drawing on vast new data that reveal Americans' changing behavior, Putnam shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from one another and how social structures -- whether they be PTA, church, or political parties -- have disintegrated. Until the publication of this groundbreaking work, no one had so deftly diagnosed the harm that these broken bonds have wreaked on our physical and civic health, nor had anyone exalted their fundamental power in creating a society that is happy, healthy, and safe. Like defining works from the past, such as *The Lonely Crowd* and *The Affluent Society*, and like the works of C. Wright Mills and Betty Friedan, Putnam's *Bowling Alone* has identified a central crisis at the heart of our society and suggests what we can do.Â

Book Information

File Size: 6458 KB

Print Length: 545 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0743203046

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; 1st edition (August 1, 2001)

Publication Date: August 1, 2001

Sold by:Â Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B003DYGOO6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #66,396 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography #22 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography #36 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Science & Medicine > Anthropology

Customer Reviews

Putnam's commentary on modern American life is frightening at best.I read Putnam's article by the

same title in college and it left a lasting imprint because it crystalized my feeling that Americans are no longer involving themselves in civic and community life. His new book expounds on this depressing thesis and explains, in tremendous detail how Americans no longer value civic engagement or regard relationships with neighbors as worthwhile. He cites declines in participation in public clubs such as the Shriners and Elks clubs as well as more informal social gatherings like poker playing and family dinners. Using statistics and time diaries he plots indicators of civic engagement from its peak in the early 1960's and its subsequent decline thereafter. The greatest casualty throughout this transformation is in social capital, a term which predates Putnam and describes the emotional and practical benefits of personal relationship. Putnam shows that civic clubs that have shown growth in membership since the 1960's have mostly been in massive national organizations whose membership is nothing more than people on mailing lists who pay an annual fee. Furthermore, religious organizations, whose members participate in their communities at greater rates than non church goers, are beginning to change their focus from civic participation to only tending to the needs of their church members. The affects of this disengagement have impacted our health, democracy and safety.

I'm writing this review for non-sociologists and non-policy experts, for people like me who don't generally curl up with a book of sociology. "Bowling Alone" is an important work because it highlights some very disturbing trends at work in America and suggests some solutions. Author Robert Putnam measures "social capital," which is simply the value of people dealing with people--organization and communication, whether it's formal (church council, the PTA), or informal (the neighborhood tavern, the weekly card game). We have suffered a huge drop in such "social capital" over the past 30-35 years; club attendance has fallen by more than half, church attendance is off, home entertaining is off, even card games are off by half. (Yes, there are people who survey for that!) Why is this important? Because a society that is rich in social capital is healthier, both for the group and for the individual. The states that have the highest club membership and voter turnouts also have the most income equality and the best schools (and those that have the lowest, have the worst). And according to Putnam, "if you decide to join [a group], you can cut your risk of dying over the next year in half." Younger people are demonstrably less social than their grandparents in the World War II generation. They also feel more malaise. Lack of sociability makes people feel worse. While "Bowling Alone" is a work of academic sociology, with charts and graphs, Putnam makes it as reader-friendly as possible with a good honest prose style and a straightforward presentation. His message deserves to be heard.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Bowling: A Complete Bowling Guide On: Bowling for Beginners- Bowling Fundamentals- Bowling Tips- Bowling for Dummies (Bowling, Bowling Basics, Bowling ... Bowling like a pro, bowling tips) Bowling - Step By Step Guide For A Beginner To Learn The Fundamentals Of Bowling (Bowling fundamentals, Bowling Tips, Bowling Basics, Bowling Professional, Bowling Technique) Sport Psychology Library: Bowling: The Handbook of Bowling Psychology Bowling for the Intermediate Player: The Fast Track to Bowling a Great Game Bowling Psychology: How to Master the Mental Game of Bowling Bowling Alone Bowling Fundamentals 2nd Edition Bowling Fundamentals, 2E Right Down Your Alley: The Complete Book of Bowling (Cengage Learning Activity) Bowling Mini Wall Calendar 2017: 16 Month Calendar The Game Changer: A Simple System for Improving Your Bowling Ccores Bowling For Dummies Right Down Your Alley: The Complete Book of Bowling Par Bowling: The Challenge Bowling: How to Master the Game Bowling Fundamentals (Sports Fundamentals) Bowling Execution - 2nd Edition Bowling: Steps to Success, 2E The Essentials of Bowling, Second Edition: Approaching the Perfect Game Intermediate Bowling Tips

[Dmca](#)