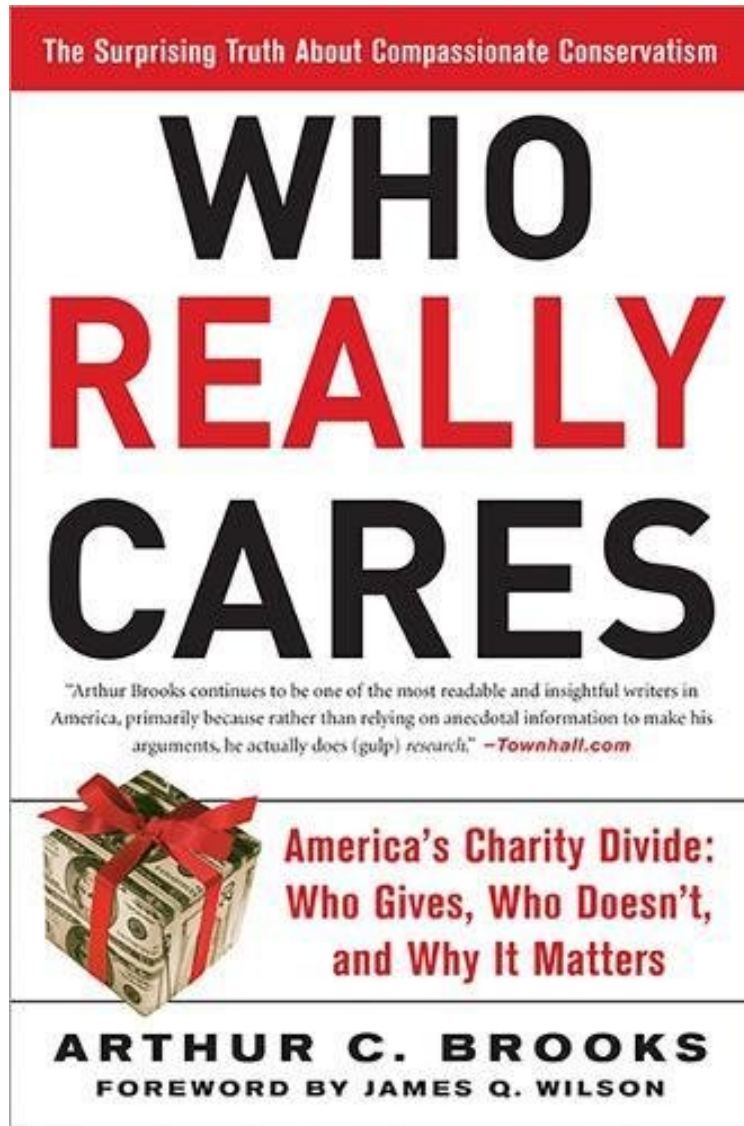


Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism

Arthur C. Brooks

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Arthur C. Brooks : Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism:

12 of 17 people found the following review helpful. An interesting readBy Susanna HutchesonThis is a rather fascinating book. I find it interesting to read about who gives and why and who doesn't give and why. The way we

give tells a lot about us as a people. So do the organizations we give to. This book goes into great detail and uses only the data. It is not biased. It's interesting to read that the working poor give more than the rich when you take into account the percentage of their income. It's also interesting to read that people who give are happier and that giving creates prosperity. I've always believed that --- in a secular and not religious way. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in giving and people who give and also to people who would like to increase their own prosperity by putting the law of giving into effect. This is a well documented, well written book. 4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Conservatives and religious are the most charitable. By artfulJohn The significant conclusion of this book is that it is the conservative and religious amongst us who are the most charitable. Brooks reaches this conclusion by reviewing a mass of available statistical data -. A substantial appendix provides detail and background to these surveys conducted by independent research bodies during the decade preceding this work. He is candid in admitting that it is not necessarily a conclusion that he was predisposed toward. They are, he admits, "contrary to my political and cultural roots." This fact, he says spurred him to even more rigorous analysis which failed to overturn the inescapable conclusion. Amongst other findings he notes the US electoral map and the charity map are remarkably similar: "For example, registered Republicans were seven points more likely to give at least once in 2002 than registered Democrats." Furthermore, he finds, "religious people are far more charitable with their time and money than secularists." And "people deeply embedded on the political left are usually not part of a "culture" of giving." Most of the research is presented lucidly and compellingly. My one caveat being the author's tendency to present and then re-present similar findings with minor variations. The style becomes somewhat repetitive. The section which for me was the hardest to digest was one in which Brooks discusses the notion that charity stimulates prosperity not only at societal level but also at the individual: the so called "Rockefeller Hypothesis" first stated by the founder of the eponymous philanthropic foundation. Brooks presents a statistical analysis of the causal relationship between individual giving and individual prosperity about which I remain skeptical. These last concerns aside this is a book that belongs in collections devoted to the serious study of charity, philanthropy and the third sector. 19 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Should be REQUIRED reading in Congress and ALL schools. By cassandra This is a well-researched, respectful, compassionate book that reveals the TRUE American character: one of remarkable charity at home and abroad, with money, time, and talents. My hat is off to Brooks for gathering the difficult to locate information and carefully documenting the facts about American culture and spirit. We are a giving people. THIS is exactly the trait we must not lose--not from a consistently overbearing nanny state mentality or from a lack of compassion that is springing up as a reaction to governmental interference in every aspect of our lives. God, family, and country are sound principles that form the basis for our compassion and have made this country the envy of the world. There are many problems in the world, but the SOLUTION is voluntary cooperation by individuals in virtually all circumstances.

We all know we should give to charity, but who really does? In his controversial study of America's giving habits, Arthur C. Brooks shatters stereotypes about charity in America-including the myth that the political Left is more compassionate than the Right. Brooks, a preeminent public policy expert, spent years researching giving trends in America, and even he was surprised by what he found. In *Who Really Cares*, he identifies the forces behind American charity: strong families, church attendance, earning one's own income (as opposed to receiving welfare), and the belief that individuals-not government-offer the best solution to social ills. But beyond just showing us who the givers and non-givers in America really are today, Brooks shows that giving is crucial to our economic prosperity, as well as to our happiness, health, and our ability to govern ourselves as a free people.

"Who Cares is not just about how we contribute time and money; it is also about how our culture may affect our politics and our economy. It is the best study of charity that I have read." -- James Q. Wilson From the Publisher "There will of course be many readers (and many more nonreaders) of Mr. Brooks's book who will dismiss it on its face, and there will be fierce efforts mounted to discredit his analysis and data. Let them come. *Who Really Cares* should serve to change the public discussion dramatically. With any luck, it will be for our decade what Charles Murray's "Losing Ground" was for the 1980s (challenging the disincentive logic of welfare) or what Michael Harrington's "The Other America" was for the 1960s (highlighting the persistence of poverty amid affluence) the text at the center of a constructive national debate." Wall Street Journal "The next time you find yourself in a conversation about how liberals are caring and compassionate while conservatives are selfish and hard-hearted, you might want to refer your interlocutors to *Who Really Cares*." --First Things (December 06) "Provocative... It's not just that charity helps those on the receiving end, says Brooks, an economist at Syracuse University in New York. It also strengthens the cohesion of society at large. Moreover, it appears to make the givers themselves more successful, possibly because the activity transforms them somewhat into better or happier people. Whatever the reasons, he finds that higher income tends to push up charity - and that greater charity tends to push up income." --Christian Science Monitor (11/27/06) "[B]reaks new ground... In *WHO REALLY CARES*, Arthur C. Brooks finds that religious conservatives are far more charitable than secular liberals, and that those who support the idea that government should redistribute income are among the

least likely to dig into their own wallets to help others."--Chronicle of Philanthropy (11/23/06)About the AuthorArthur C. Brooks is Louis A. Bantle Professor of Business and Government Policy at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. The author of *Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism*, Brooks writes widely about the connections between culture, politics, and economic life in America, and his work appears frequently in the *Wall Street Journal* and other publications. He is a native of Seattle, Washington, and currently lives in Syracuse, New York, with his wife Ester and their three children.