



The Good Life and Its Discontents: The American Dream in the Age of Entitlement

Robert J. Samuelson

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Today Americans are wealthier, healthier, and live longer than at any previous time in our history. As a society, we have never had it so good. Yet, paradoxically, many of us have never felt so bad. For, as Robert J. Samuelson observes in this visionary book, our country suffers from a national sense of entitlement--a feeling that someone, whether Big Business or Big Government, should guarantee us secure jobs, rising living standards, social harmony, and personal fulfillment.

In *The Good Life and Its Discontents*, Samuelson, a national columnist for *Newsweek* and the *Washington Post*, links our rising expectations with our belief in a post-Cold War vision of an American utopia. Using history, economics, and psychology, he exposes the hubris of economists and corporate managers and indicts a government that promises too much to too many constituencies. Like David Reisman's *The Lonely Crowd* and John Kenneth Galbraith's *The Affluent Society*, the result is a book that defines its time--and that is sure to shape the national debate for years to come.

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