

From The Righteous Mind: A Deeper Understanding of Moral Values

What is morality? Why do we care about right and wrong? And how can we make sense of the often-conflicting moral beliefs of different people and cultures?



Why Do They Vote That Way?: from The Righteous Mind (A Vintage Short) by Jonathan Haidt

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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These are some of the questions that Jonathan Haidt explores in his groundbreaking book, *From The Righteous Mind*. Haidt argues that our moral judgments are not based on reason, but on our emotions and intuitions. He draws on a wealth of research in psychology, sociology, and neuroscience to show that our moral intuitions are shaped by our evolutionary history, our social environment, and our personal experiences.

Haidt also argues that our moral intuitions are often in conflict with each other. For example, we may believe that it is wrong to kill, but we may also

believe that it is sometimes necessary to kill in self-defense. These conflicts can lead to moral dilemmas and make it difficult for us to make decisions about right and wrong.

However, Haidt also believes that our moral intuitions can be a valuable guide to behavior. He argues that we should not ignore our moral intuitions, but rather try to understand them and use them to make better decisions. By understanding the psychology of morality, we can become more tolerant of other people's moral beliefs and make better decisions about our own lives.

The Six Moral Foundations

Haidt identifies six moral foundations that are common to all human beings: care/harm, fairness/cheating, loyalty/betrayal, authority/subversion, sanctity/degradation, and liberty/oppression. These foundations are based on our evolutionary history and our need to survive and thrive as a species.

- **Care/harm:** We are all born with a need to care for others and to be cared for. This foundation is essential for our survival and well-being.
- **Fairness/cheating:** We all want to be treated fairly and we all want to avoid being cheated. This foundation is essential for our cooperation and social harmony.
- **Loyalty/betrayal:** We all need to be loyal to our family, friends, and community. This foundation is essential for our social cohesion and support.
- **Authority/subversion:** We all need to respect authority and to obey the rules. This foundation is essential for our social Free Download and stability.

- **Sanctity/degradation:** We all need to feel that our bodies and our environment are sacred. This foundation is essential for our physical and mental health.
- **Liberty/oppression:** We all need to be free to make our own choices and to live our own lives. This foundation is essential for our personal autonomy and well-being.

Haidt argues that these six moral foundations are not equal. Some foundations are more important than others, and they can conflict with each other in certain situations.

The Righteous Mind

Haidt uses the term "righteous mind" to describe the way that our moral intuitions can lead us to see the world in black and white. When we are in a righteous mind, we believe that we are right and that everyone else is wrong. This can lead to conflict, intolerance, and even violence.

Haidt argues that the righteous mind is a product of our evolutionary history. It is a way of thinking that helped us to survive and thrive in a dangerous and uncertain world. However, the righteous mind can also be a source of conflict and division.

The Importance of Humility

Haidt believes that the key to overcoming the righteous mind is humility. We need to be humble enough to admit that we do not have all the answers and that our moral beliefs are not always right. We need to be willing to listen to other people's perspectives and to learn from our mistakes.

Humility is not easy, but it is essential for creating a more tolerant and understanding world. By embracing humility, we can open ourselves up to new ideas and experiences. We can learn to see the world from other people's perspectives and to appreciate the diversity of human values.

From The Righteous Mind is a challenging and thought-provoking book that will change the way you think about morality. Haidt's research provides a new understanding of the psychology of morality and the importance of humility. By embracing humility, we can create a more tolerant and understanding world.

If you are interested in learning more about the psychology of morality, I highly recommend reading *From The Righteous Mind*. It is a book that will challenge your assumptions and change the way you think about the world.



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