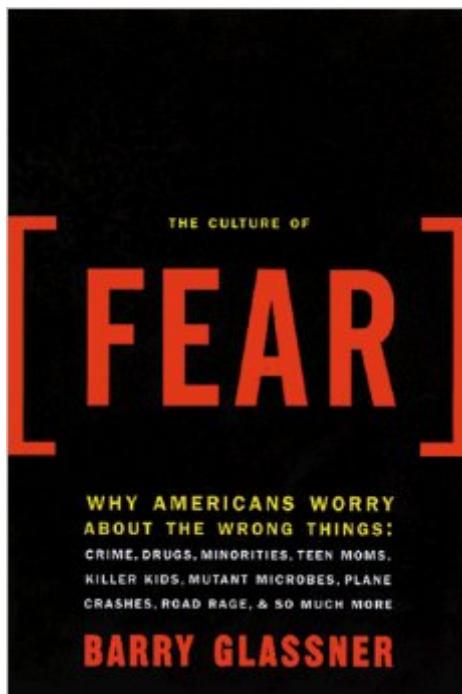


The book was found

The Culture Of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid Of The Wrong Things



Synopsis

There has never been another era in modern history, even during wartime or the Great Depression, when so many people have feared so much. Three out of four Americans say they feel more fearful today than they did twenty years ago. The Culture of Fear describes the high costs of living in a fear-ridden environment where realism has become rarer than doors without deadbolts. Why do we have so many fears these days? Are we living in exceptionally dangerous times? To watch the news, you'd certainly think so, but Glassner demonstrates that it is our perception of danger that has increased, not the actual level of risk. The Culture of Fear is an exposé of the people and organizations that manipulate our perceptions and profit from our fears: politicians who win elections by heightening concerns about crime and drug use even as rates for both are declining; advocacy groups that raise money by exaggerating the prevalence of particular diseases; TV newsmagazines that monger a new scare every week to garner ratings. Glassner spells out the prices we pay for social panics: the huge sums of money that go to waste on unnecessary programs and products as well as time and energy spent worrying about our fears.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Basic Books; 1st edition (May 2, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465014895

ISBN-13: 978-0465014897

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 6.5 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (209 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #612,112 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Social Theory #792 in Books > Textbooks > Communication & Journalism > Media Studies #1091 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Criminology

Customer Reviews

In the course of reading Barry Glassner's "The Culture of Fear," I was surprised that Glassner took a more balanced view than I had at first expected. After being featured in left-wing muckracker, Michael Moore's latest film, "Bowling for Columbine," I had assumed Glassner, too, had produced a one-sided liberal rant about the corporate-controlled media interests. I was wrong. While some of Glassner's conclusions may be questionable, like his statements without clear evidence that the

availability of guns are almost entirely to blame for the nation's violence, much of his book is filled with example-after-example of familiar media-propagated scares of the 1990s along with well-researched statistics to debunk the myths. After reading the book, the pattern became clear of how the media spins its stories to make them deliberately misleading in order to sell fear and keep viewers and readers plugged in. I believe this educational experience has made me a more savvy and skeptical consumer of the news. While Glassner's primary target in "The Culture of Fear" is the media, other groups are also shamed along the way (and they aren't all conservatives, either!) For instance, he spends a fair amount of time accusing feminists of propagating the silicone breast implant scares for symbolic gains even as study-after-study, some very large, involving tens of thousands of women showed no increased evidence of medical problems due to the implants. One trend that I found amusing in many of the scares is that genuine experts are often ignored in the propagation of the fears. When genuine experts are consulted and disagree with the media's spin, their rational hard-facts explanations are often dismissed with a brush of the hand from the interviewer and followed by a, "but what about all the children?"

"We have the resources to feed, house, educate, insure, and disarm our communities if we resolve to do so....We can choose to redirect some...funds to combat serious dangers that threaten large numbers of people. At election time, we can choose candidates that proffer programs rather than scares." (p. 210) With these concluding words, sociologist Barry Glassner underscores the basic premise of his book---Americans live in a culture in which extreme irrational fears are stoked while more serious (but less sexy) concerns are downplayed or ignored. Over the course of nine chapters, each focusing on a different "genre" of fear-mongering, Glassner dissects the most widely discussed terrors du jour (e.g., moral panics, violent crime, terrorism, infectious diseases like SARS, airplane crashes, etc.) and asks why it is that we tend to ignore serious, chronic, systemic problems like homelessness and malnutrition among American children in favor of flashy "threats" like West Nile Virus and school shootings. His answer, such as it is, is that this culture of fear results from the intersection of political ideology, mass media pandering, and monomaniacal advocacy. So, for example, the obvious denominator common to all gun crimes, the relative ease with which guns can be acquired, is ignored or written-off in favor of moral or psychological explanations. That most child abuse, kidnapping, and murder occurs within the family unit gets less press than "don't talk to strangers," perhaps because we collectively fear what the examination of the "family" recommended by this data would reveal.

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

The Culture Of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid Of The Wrong Things The New World Order: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid (What The New World Order Means to You!) (Illuminati Secrets Book 1) The ETTO Principle: Efficiency-Thoroughness Trade-Off: Why Things That Go Right Sometimes Go Wrong What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?): A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies (What's Wrong Series) What's Wrong With My Houseplant?: Save Your Indoor Plants With 100% Organic Solutions (What's Wrong Series) The ABCs of the ADA: Your Early Childhood Program's Guide to the Americans with Disabilities ActYour Early Childhood Programs' Guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act Everything Is Wrong with Me: A Memoir of an American Childhood Gone, Well, Wrong Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?, Vol. 4 - light novel (Is It Wrong to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?) Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?, Vol. 2 - light novel (Is It Wrong to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?) ESP8266: Programming NodeMCU Using Arduino IDE - Get Started With ESP8266: (Internet Of Things, IOT, Projects In Internet Of Things, Internet Of Things for Beginners, NodeMCU Programming, ESP8266) Spark Notes No Fear Shakespeare Othello (SparkNotes No Fear Shakespeare) Why Can't My Child Behave?: Why Can't She Cope? Why Can't He Learn? The Feingold Diet updated for today's busy families IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola Shouting Won't Help: Why I--and 50 Million Other Americans--Can't Hear You Cosmic Constitutional Theory: Why Americans Are Losing Their Inalienable Right to Self-Governance (Inalienable Rights) Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid—And What We Can Do About It Why Americans Hate the Media and How It Matters The Bias Against Guns: Why Almost Everything You've Heard About Gun Control Is Wrong Generation Me - Revised and Updated: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled--and More Miserable Than Ever Before We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture Redefining Sex, Marriage, and the Very Meaning of Right and Wrong

[Dmca](#)