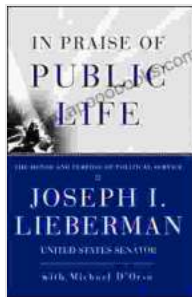


# In Praise of Public Life: A Call for Reengagement in Civic Affairs

By Charles Goodin



## In Praise Of Public Life by Joseph I. Lieberman

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 456 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 174 pages
Hardcover	: 240 pages
Item Weight	: 1.1 pounds



Public life is essential for a healthy democracy. It is the space where we come together to discuss our shared concerns, make decisions about our future, and hold our leaders accountable. When public life is vibrant and engaged, it can help us to solve our problems, improve our communities, and build a better world.

But in recent years, public life has been in decline. People are less likely to participate in civic organizations, vote in elections, or run for office. This decline has had a negative impact on our democracy. It has made it harder to address our problems and has given rise to a more polarized and divided society.

In his new book, *\_In Praise of Public Life\_*, Charles Goodin argues that we need to reengage in civic affairs. He shows that public life is not just a duty, but also a source of great satisfaction and fulfillment. He also provides a roadmap for how we can rebuild our public life and make it more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all citizens.

Goodin begins by arguing that public life is essential for a healthy democracy. He points out that democracy is not just about voting in elections, but also about participating in the ongoing process of governing ourselves. This process requires us to come together to discuss our shared concerns, make decisions about our future, and hold our leaders accountable.

When public life is vibrant and engaged, it can help us to solve our problems and improve our communities. For example, in the United States, the civil rights movement was successful because it was able to mobilize a large number of people to demand change. The movement's leaders used public spaces, such as churches and schools, to hold rallies and protests. They also organized boycotts and other forms of nonviolent resistance. These actions helped to raise awareness of the issue of racial discrimination and eventually led to the passage of landmark legislation, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Public life can also be a source of great satisfaction and fulfillment. When we participate in civic affairs, we are not only making a difference in our communities, but we are also connecting with others and building relationships. These relationships can provide us with a sense of belonging and purpose.

Unfortunately, public life has been in decline in recent years. People are less likely to participate in civic organizations, vote in elections, or run for office. This decline has had a negative impact on our democracy. It has made it harder to address our problems and has given rise to a more polarized and divided society.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the decline of public life. One factor is the rise of individualism. In recent decades, there has been a growing emphasis on individual rights and freedoms. This emphasis has led to a decline in the sense of community and shared responsibility.

Another factor that has contributed to the decline of public life is the growth of social media. Social media has made it easier for people to connect with others who share their views. This can lead to a sense of isolation and make it harder to have meaningful conversations with people who have different perspectives.

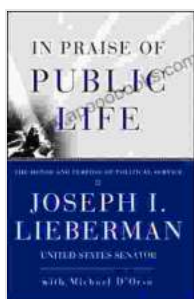
The decline of public life is a serious problem. It is making it harder to address our problems and is giving rise to a more polarized and divided society. We need to find ways to rebuild our public life and make it more inclusive and responsive to the needs of all citizens.

Goodin offers a number of suggestions for how we can rebuild our public life. He argues that we need to:

- \* Make it easier for people to participate in civic affairs. This means reducing barriers to participation, such as the cost of running for office or the time it takes to volunteer.
- \* Create more opportunities for people to come together and discuss their shared concerns. This can be done through public forums, town hall meetings, and other events.
- \* Support

organizations that are working to promote civic engagement. These organizations can provide training, resources, and support to help people participate in civic affairs.

Rebuilding our public life will not be easy, but it is essential for the health of our democracy. By working together, we can create a more inclusive and responsive public life that will help us to solve our problems and build a better future for all.



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