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Main content

Article Preview :

This book represents a seminal work containing both an analytical and empirical inquiry into the phenomenon of poverty and human well being. The book is centered on the phenomenon of destitution, "the extreme condition of ill-being," which the author views as both a personal calamity and cultural tragedy. Much like Adam Smith in *An Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations*, Dasgupta attempts to develop a broad political philosophy based on a multidisciplinary foundation for viewing human well-being which can serve as an ultimate guide for public policy. The work draws upon a mixture of economic theory, moral and political philosophy, anthropology, demography, epidemiology, nutrition, political science, ecology and environmental science. Because he attempts to make the work self-contained by including needed analytical tools the book is both long and considerably inconsistent in the level of exposition. It is, however, a thorough treatment of the poverty phenomenon in low income countries. Considerable attention is directed to resource allocation at all levels, as well as institutional factors, market failures and externalities associated with household decision making, particularly with regard to reproductive choices. Not surprisingly, it is a very long book, containing 540 pages of main text, covering a wide variety of topics. Consequently, it is virtually impossible to do little more in a review such as this than provide a description and overview of the work.

The book is divided into four parts and contains a total of 17 chapters, 7 chapter appendices and an extensive (80 page) list of references. Part I, "Well-Being: Theory and Realization," contains five chapters focusing on theory and the measurement of well-being. Topics covered here include "The Commodity Basis of Well-Being" (1), "Political Morality and the State" (2), "The Objects of Social Contracts" (3), "Well-Being: From Theory to Measurement" (4) and "The Realization of Well-Being" (5). This part focuses on the moral and philosophical issues which underlie the concept and measurement of poverty and destitution at both the individual and aggregate levels....

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An Enquiry Concerning the Human Understanding, and an Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals. David Hume & Lewis Amherst Selby-Bigge - 1894. An Enquiry Concerning the Human Understanding; and, an Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals. David Hume & L. A. Selby-Bigge - 1894 - Clarendon Press. An Enquiry concerning the human Understanding, and an Enquiry concerning the principles of morals. L. A. Selby-Bigge & David Hume - 1895 - *Revue Philosophique de la France Et de l'Etranger* 40:428-433. Use of this site is subject to terms & conditions. All rights reserved by The PhilPapers Foundation. Page generated Thu Mar 19 19:55:28 2020 on pp1. Paperback ISBN 9780198288350 An Inquiry into Well Being and Destitution Edition 1 by How should economic and social theory accommodate empirical facts about physical destitution and how should governments respond to famines and hunger This interdisciplinary book focuses on these and other questions about physical being Dasgupta's aim here is to offer a description of An inquiry into well being and destitution. Book 1993 Get this from a library An inquiry into well being and destitution Partha Dasgupta An interdisciplinary study of what is broadly development economics but encompasses the most An inquiry into well-being and destitution. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Google Scholar. Day, H., & Jankey, S. G. (1996). Introducing the concept of child well-being into government policy. In C. McAuley & W. Rose (Eds.), *Child well-being: Understanding children's lives*. London: Jessica Kingsley. Google Scholar.