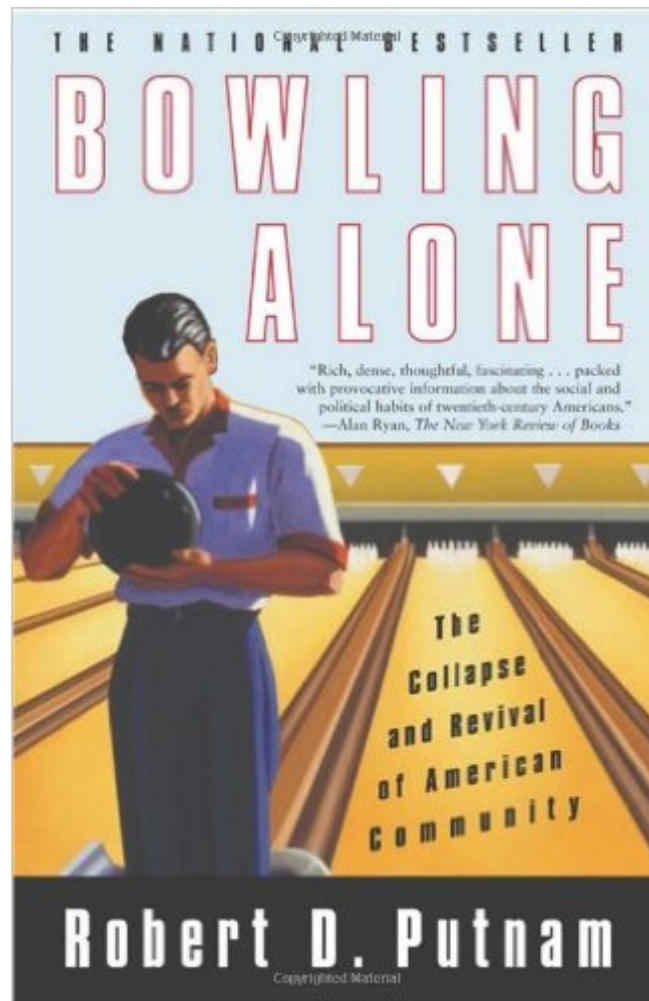


The book was found

Bowling Alone: The Collapse And Revival Of American Community



Synopsis

Once we bowled in leagues, usually after workâ€”but no longer. This seemingly small phenomenon symbolizes a significant social change that Robert Putnam has identified in this brilliant volume, which *The Economist* hailed as â€œa prodigious achievement.â€• Drawing on vast new data that reveal Americansâ€™ changing behavior, Putnam shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from one another and how social structuresâ€”whether they be PTA, church, or political partiesâ€”have disintegrated. Until the publication of this groundbreaking work, no one had so deftly diagnosed the harm that these broken bonds have wreaked on our physical and civic health, nor had anyone exalted their fundamental power in creating a society that is happy, healthy, and safe. Like defining works from the past, such as *The Lonely Crowd* and *The Affluent Society*, and like the works of C. Wright Mills and Betty Friedan, Putnamâ€™s *Bowling Alone* has identified a central crisis at the heart of our society and suggests what we can do.

Book Information

Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: Touchstone Books by Simon & Schuster; 1st edition (August 7, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743203046

ISBN-13: 978-0743203043

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (207 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,234 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography](#) #8 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Anthropology](#) #20 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Class](#)

Customer Reviews

Putnam's commentary on modern American life is frightening at best. I read Putnam's article by the same title in college and it left a lasting imprint because it crystalized my feeling that Americans are no longer involving themselves in civic and community life. His new book expounds on this depressing thesis and explains, in tremendous detail how Americans no longer value civic engagement or regard relationships with neighbors as worthwhile. He cites declines in participation in public clubs such as the Shriners and Elks clubs as well as more informal social gatherings like poker playing and family dinners. Using statistics and time diaries he plots indicators of civic

engagement from its peak in the early 1960's and its subsequent decline thereafter. The greatest casualty throughout this transformation is in social capital, a term which predates Putnam and describes the emotional and practical benefits of personal relationship. Putnam shows that civic clubs that have shown growth in membership since the 1960's have mostly been in massive national organizations whose membership is nothing more than people on mailing lists who pay an annual fee. Furthermore, religious organizations, whose members participate in their communities at greater rates than non church goers, are beginning to change their focus from civic participation to only tending to the needs of their church members. The affects of this disengagement have impacted our health, democracy and safety.

I'm writing this review for non-sociologists and non-policy experts, for people like me who don't generally curl up with a book of sociology. "Bowling Alone" is an important work because it highlights some very disturbing trends at work in America and suggests some solutions. Author Robert Putnam measures "social capital," which is simply the value of people dealing with people--organization and communication, whether it's formal (church council, the PTA), or informal (the neighborhood tavern, the weekly card game). We have suffered a huge drop in such "social capital" over the past 30-35 years; club attendance has fallen by more than half, church attendance is off, home entertaining is off, even card games are off by half. (Yes, there are people who survey for that!) Why is this important? Because a society that is rich in social capital is healthier, both for the group and for the individual. The states that have the highest club membership and voter turnouts also have the most income equality and the best schools (and those that have the lowest, have the worst). And according to Putnam, "if you decide to join [a group], you can cut your risk of dying over the next year in half." Younger people are demonstrably less social than their grandparents in the World War II generation. They also feel more malaise. Lack of sociability makes people feel worse. While "Bowling Alone" is a work of academic sociology, with charts and graphs, Putnam makes it as reader-friendly as possible with a good honest prose style and a straightforward presentation. His message deserves to be heard.

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

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community
Passive Income: The Death of Money and Passive Income. How to Make Money Online and Survive in the Economic Collapse (Passive income, financial freedom, ... online, free money) (collapse, shtf Book 1)
The Death of Money: Best Tips How to Survive in Economic Collapse and Get out of Debt (dollar collapse, prepper supplies, prepping, debt free, free money) ... self help, budgeting, money free Book 3)
The

Death of Money: The Prepper's Guide to Survive in Economic Collapse and How to Start a Debt Free Life Forver (dollar collapse, how to get out of debt) (Preppers, self help, budgeting Book 1) The Death Of Money: Economic Collapse and How to Survive In Global Economic Crisis (dollar collapse, preppers, prepper supplies, survival books, money) (SHTF Survival) (Volume 5) The Death of Money: How to Survive in Economic Collapse and to Start a New Debt Free Life (dollar collapse, prepping, death of dollar, debt free, how to ... how to make money online, shtf Book 1) The Death of Money: Currency Wars in the Coming Economic Collapse and How to Live off The Grid (dollar collapse,debt free, prepper supplies) (Prepping, preppers guide, survival books) (Volume 1) The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill, Volume II: Alone, 1932-1940: Winston Spencer Churchill, Volume II: Alone, 1932-1940 Alone Yet Not Alone: Their faith became their freedom Alone with the Alone Honor Bound & Two Alone: Honor Bound, Two Alone The City and the Theatre: The History of New York Playhouses: a 250 Year Journey from Bowling Green to Times Square Curious George Goes Bowling (CGTV Lift-the-Flap 8x8) Nun Bowling: It's Sinfully Fun! (Mega Mini Kits) Community/Public Health Nursing Practice: Health for Families and Populations, 5e (Maurer, Community/ Public Health Nursing Practice) Folk City: New York and the American Folk Music Revival What Is a Community? (Our Global Community: Acorn Read-Aloud) The Four Seasons of Shaker Life: An Intimate Portrait of the Community at Sabbathday Lake (Last Shaker Community) The Community Table: Recipes & Stories from the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan & Beyond Foundations of Nursing in the Community: Community-Oriented Practice, 4e

[Dmca](#)