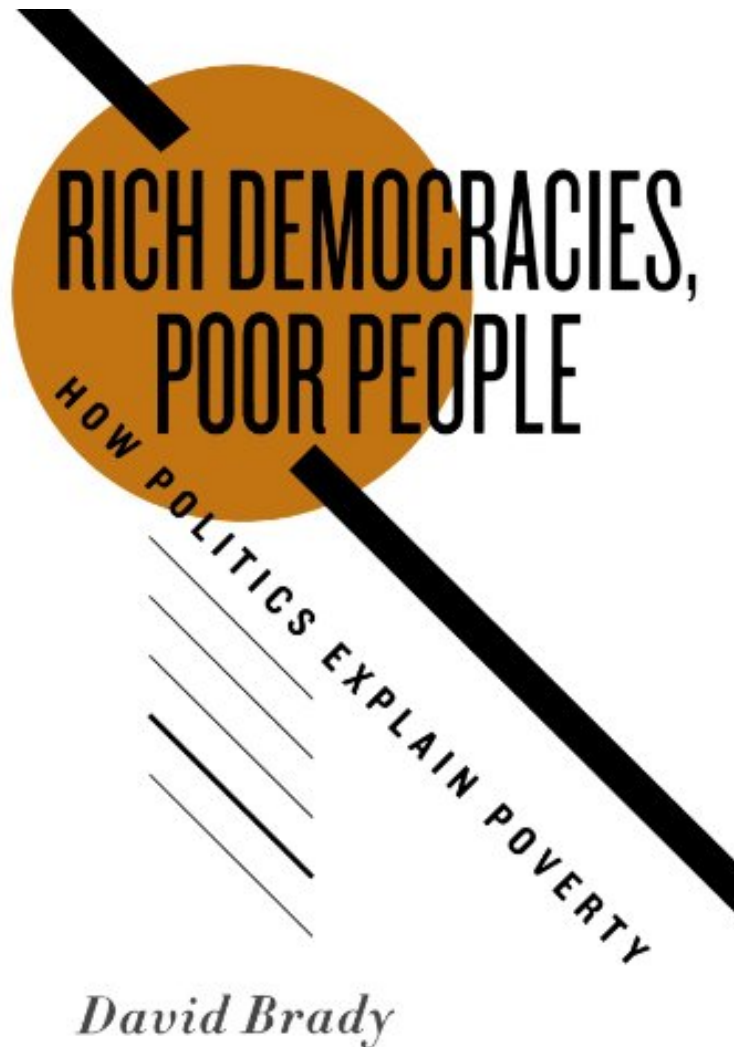


[Read free] Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty

# Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty

*David Brady*

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**David Brady : Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and all these ingredients blend together beautifully in this bookBy JoshuaBrady has expertise in sociology, political science and public policy, and all these ingredients blend together beautifully in this book. As his work often does, Brady's 'Rich Democracies, Poor People' provides a thorough, in-

depth, political explanation for a social phenomenon from a macro, cross-national perspective. Of particular note is the second chapter on Brady's suggestions for revisions to the measurement of poverty--this is a must read for any social scientist interested in poverty and cross-nationally comparative research. 0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. One of the worst things I've ever read!By sbc2556This is one of most poorly-written books I've ever read in my life! The author does little to drive home the point of the thesis and relies too much on studies and other works to make what amounts to a luke-warm, passionless never ending bore! I selected this for my book club because I wanted to delve into the topic of poverty but ended up apologizing for subjecting them to such a poor work.

Poverty is not simply the result of an individual's characteristics, behaviors or abilities. Rather, as David Brady demonstrates, poverty is the result of politics. In *Rich Democracies, Poor People*, Brady investigates why poverty is so entrenched in some affluent democracies whereas it is a solvable problem in others. Drawing on over thirty years of data from eighteen countries, Brady argues that cross-national and historical variations in poverty are principally driven by differences in the generosity of the welfare state. An explicit challenge to mainstream views of poverty as an inescapable outcome of individual failings or a society's labor markets and demography, this book offers institutionalized power relations theory as an alternative explanation. The power of coalitions for egalitarianism, Leftist political groups and parties, and the social policies they are able to institutionalize shape the amount of poverty in society. Where poverty is low, equality has been institutionalized. Where poverty is widespread, exemplified by the U.S., there has been a failure to institutionalize equality. A comprehensive and state-of-the-art study, *Rich Democracies, Poor People* places the inherently political choices over resources and the political organization of states, markets, and societies at the center of the study of poverty and social inequality.

"With this book, David Brady punctures a number of American myths about the causes of poverty in a sophisticated and highly accessible way. Brady finds that welfare state generosity and its political antecedents ultimately drive variations in levels of poverty--thus, poverty, he argues, is a result of political choice. Brady's book is essential reading for scholars and policy makers interested in poverty in the United States and other affluent democracies."--John D. Stephens, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill "David Brady has written a masterful book on understanding how such a wide variation in poverty can exist in rich, democratic societies. This is indeed an abundant resource for understanding and explaining the institutions and politics that perpetually affect differing levels of poverty and inequality across multiple welfare states. It will stand as the definitive explanation of institutional variation in poverty for political economists and sociologists for a long time to come."--Timothy Smeeding, University of Wisconsin-Madison "Rich Democracies, Poor People uses a comprehensive framework to explain variations in poverty across developed societies. It makes an important contribution toward understanding the linkage between welfare state politics and poverty." --International Journal of Social Welfare "Brady's book sits squarely in the mainstream of current poverty research and is the most incisive, most informative, and most comprehensive treatment of that research published to date. This book belongs in every academic library and in as many classrooms as possible." --International Journal of Comparative Sociology "Rich Democracies, Poor People is a carefully-conceived adroitly-executed, and eminently-accessible piece of scholarship that will shape the fields of poverty studies and political sociology for years to come." --Contemporary Sociology About the Author David Brady is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Duke University and is a widely-published author of articles on poverty, inequality, and globalization.