

bobos in paradise

bobos in paradise is a term that encapsulates the transformation of American culture, society, and values at the turn of the 21st century. Popularized by David Brooks in his influential book, "Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There," the phrase describes the rise of a hybrid class—bourgeois bohemians—who blend the intellectual, artistic leanings of the bohemian with the affluence and ambition of the bourgeois. This article delves deep into the origins and evolution of bobos in paradise, exploring their values, lifestyle, economic impact, and cultural significance. Readers will discover what sets bobos apart, their influence on contemporary society, and why this concept remains relevant in discussions about class, culture, and identity. Whether you're familiar with the term or just discovering it, this comprehensive guide provides fresh insights and analysis, making it a must-read for anyone interested in social trends, cultural analysis, and the changing face of the modern elite.

- Understanding "Bobos in Paradise": Origins and Definitions
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Understanding "Bobos in Paradise": Origins and Definitions

The phrase "bobos in paradise" was coined by journalist and author David Brooks in his 2000 book, which examines the emergence of a new American elite blending bourgeois and bohemian traits. "Bobos" is a portmanteau of "bourgeois" and "bohemian," capturing the paradoxical nature of this group. Historically, bourgeois referred to the affluent, business-oriented class, while bohemians embraced creativity, unconventional lifestyles, and anti-establishment ideals. The fusion of these identities in the late 20th and early 21st centuries marked a significant societal shift. Brooks observed that this new class valued both material success and cultural authenticity, creating a unique social phenomenon. The concept quickly gained traction in academic, cultural, and media circles, serving as a lens to analyze changing social dynamics.

The Rise of Bourgeois Bohemians

Historical Context and Social Shifts

The rise of bobos in paradise can be traced to the post-1960s era, when higher education became more accessible and social mobility increased. The countercultural movements of the 1960s and 1970s challenged traditional norms, paving the way for a generation that valued creativity, individuality, and self-expression. As the children of these movements entered the workforce, many found success in knowledge-based industries such as technology, media, and finance. They combined the ambition and pragmatism of their bourgeois predecessors with the intellectual curiosity and cultural sensitivity of bohemians. This convergence led to the formation of a new class that redefined success and status in America.

The Influence of Education and Occupation

Education is a cornerstone of bobo identity. More than wealth, it is the attainment of advanced degrees and intellectual achievement that sets bobos apart. They gravitate towards professions that require creativity and analytical skills, such as academia, publishing, design, and entrepreneurship. These careers allow bobos to express their values while achieving financial stability. The result is a class that is both highly educated and economically influential, shaping trends in urban development, consumer behavior, and cultural production.

Key Characteristics of Bobos

Values and Attitudes

Bobos in paradise are characterized by their commitment to self-actualization, social responsibility, and cultural sophistication. They prioritize experiences over possessions, seeking fulfillment through travel, culinary exploration, and lifelong learning. Environmentalism, ethical consumerism, and philanthropy are central to their worldview. Rather than flaunting their wealth, bobos often embrace understated luxury and minimalist aesthetics. Authenticity and individuality are paramount, influencing their choices in fashion, home design, and even parenting styles.

Lifestyle Preferences

- Preference for organic, locally-sourced foods and artisanal products
- Participation in cultural events, art exhibitions, and intellectual discourse
- Inclination towards urban living in neighborhoods with vibrant communities
- Investment in wellness, fitness, and mindfulness practices

- Emphasis on work-life balance and flexible working arrangements

These lifestyle choices reflect the bobo philosophy of combining material comfort with cultural enrichment and ethical living. Their homes often feature sustainable materials, contemporary art, and spaces designed for social gatherings and creative pursuits.

Economic Impact and Consumer Behavior

Market Trends Shaped by Bobos

Bobos in paradise have had a profound impact on the economy, particularly in sectors like real estate, retail, food, and technology. Their preference for authenticity and quality has driven the growth of organic markets, farm-to-table restaurants, and artisanal brands. Urban neighborhoods favored by bobos experience revitalization, with rising property values and the proliferation of boutique businesses. Technology companies benefit from bobo consumers' demand for innovation and user-friendly design. The bobo influence is also evident in the popularity of coworking spaces, remote work platforms, and gig economy services.

Ethical and Sustainable Consumption

Bobos are at the forefront of ethical consumerism. They seek out products and services that align with their values, favoring companies with transparent supply chains and environmentally friendly practices. This has led to increased demand for fair-trade goods, renewable energy solutions, and socially responsible investment opportunities. Brands that fail to meet bobo standards often struggle to gain traction in urban markets dominated by this demographic.

Cultural Influence and Shifting Values

Redefining Success and Status

The emergence of bobos in paradise has redefined what it means to be successful in America. Traditional markers such as conspicuous consumption and social pedigree have given way to intellectual achievement, cultural capital, and ethical living. Bobos value influence and impact over mere wealth, often channeling their resources into creative projects, social entrepreneurship, and activism. Their approach to status is nuanced, with an emphasis on being "in the know" rather than simply affluent.

Impact on Art, Media, and Society

Bobos have played a significant role in shaping contemporary culture, from the rise of indie music and craft breweries to the popularity of documentary films and literary festivals. Their demand for thoughtful, meaningful content has influenced media production and distribution, encouraging diversity and innovation. In society, bobos advocate for progressive causes, environmental stewardship, and inclusive communities, contributing to ongoing debates about equity and social justice.

Criticism and Controversies

Paradoxes and Social Divide

Despite their progressive ideals, bobos in paradise are not without criticism. Some argue that their pursuit of authenticity and ethical living can be superficial or self-serving. The emphasis on high-quality education and cultural capital may perpetuate social stratification, limiting upward mobility for those outside the bobo sphere. Critics also point to the phenomenon of "greenwashing," where companies exploit bobo values for marketing purposes without meaningful change. These paradoxes highlight the complexities and contradictions inherent in the bobo identity.

Gentrification and Urban Change

The migration of bobos into urban neighborhoods has sparked debates about gentrification and displacement. While bobos contribute to economic revitalization and cultural vibrancy, their presence can drive up housing costs and alter the social fabric of long-standing communities. The challenge lies in balancing development with inclusivity, ensuring that urban renewal benefits all residents.

Bobos in Paradise Today: Lasting Relevance

Enduring Influence in the 21st Century

More than two decades after "Bobos in Paradise" was published, the concept remains relevant in discussions about class, culture, and identity. The values and behaviors associated with bobos continue to shape trends in technology, food, education, and urban planning. As society grapples with new challenges, including remote work, digital transformation, and political polarization, the bobo ethos offers both inspiration and critique. Their legacy is evident in the ongoing pursuit of balance between material success and cultural fulfillment, individuality and community, tradition and innovation.

Future Directions

As the boundaries between classes and cultures continue to blur, the bobo phenomenon may evolve in unexpected ways. New generations are adapting bobo ideals to address contemporary issues such as climate change, mental health, and global connectivity. The conversation about bobos in paradise remains dynamic, reflecting broader shifts in societal values and aspirations.

Q: What does "bobos in paradise" mean?

A: "Bobos in paradise" refers to the rise of a new American elite—bourgeois bohemians—who combine the affluence and ambition of the bourgeois with the creativity and cultural values of the bohemian. The term was popularized by David Brooks and examines how this hybrid class shapes modern society.

Q: What are the key characteristics of bobos?

A: Bobos are known for valuing education, ethical consumerism, cultural sophistication, and understated luxury. They prefer experiences over possessions, support sustainable and artisanal products, and emphasize authenticity in their lifestyle choices.

Q: How have bobos impacted the economy?

A: Bobos have influenced market trends by increasing demand for organic foods, ethical brands, sustainable products, and urban revitalization. Their buying habits favor quality, transparency, and innovation, leading to growth in niche markets and local economies.

Q: Why are bobos criticized?

A: Bobos are sometimes criticized for paradoxical behaviors, such as promoting inclusivity while contributing to gentrification and social stratification. Critics also argue that their commitment to ethical living can be superficial, especially when companies exploit these values for profit.

Q: How do bobos view success?

A: Bobos redefine success by prioritizing intellectual achievement, cultural capital, and social impact over traditional markers like wealth or social pedigree. They value influence, authenticity, and meaningful contributions to society.

Q: What role does education play in bobo identity?

A: Education is central to bobo identity, with advanced degrees and intellectual pursuits serving as key status symbols. Bobos often work in creative, knowledge-based professions that allow for both financial stability and personal fulfillment.

Q: Are bobos a global phenomenon?

A: While the concept originated in the United States, similar trends can be observed globally, especially in urban centers where affluent, educated professionals embrace both material comfort and cultural values.

Q: How have bobos shaped urban development?

A: Bobos contribute to urban revitalization by supporting local businesses, art, and sustainable living. However, their presence can also drive up housing costs and alter communities, raising concerns about gentrification.

Q: What is the lasting relevance of "bobos in paradise"?

A: The concept of bobos in paradise remains relevant as discussions about class, culture, and identity continue to evolve. Their influence persists in trends related to technology, food, education, and social values.

Q: Can anyone become a bobo?

A: While bobo traits are most common among highly educated, urban professionals, aspects of their lifestyle and values are increasingly adopted by broader populations seeking balance between material success and cultural enrichment.

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Bobos in Paradise: Deconstructing the Upscale Bohemian Lifestyle

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered about the seemingly effortless blend of affluence and counter-cultural ideals embodied by the "Bobo"? This enigmatic term, short for "bourgeois bohemian," paints a picture of a lifestyle that simultaneously embraces luxury and a rejection of mainstream consumerism. This post delves into the fascinating world of "Bobos in Paradise," exploring the

origins of this lifestyle, its defining characteristics, its criticisms, and ultimately, its relevance in today's complex social landscape. We'll examine the contradictions inherent in the Bobo lifestyle and consider whether it's a genuine societal shift or simply a sophisticated form of conspicuous consumption.

What Exactly is a Bobo?

The term "Bobo," coined in the late 20th century, describes individuals who successfully navigate the intersection of bourgeois comfort and bohemian aesthetics. They are often highly educated, financially secure professionals who maintain a commitment to progressive values while enjoying a privileged lifestyle. Think artisanal coffee, ethically sourced clothing, and weekend getaways to remote, eco-friendly resorts – all within the context of a successful career and a comfortable home.

Key Characteristics of the Bobo Lifestyle:

Affluence and Ethical Consumption: Bobos prioritize ethical and sustainable consumption, but their purchasing power allows them to acquire premium, often handcrafted, goods that reflect their values. This presents a paradoxical tension: can truly ethical consumption exist within a framework of significant affluence?

Progressive Values and Conservative Practices: Bobos often espouse liberal political views, supporting social justice causes and environmental protection. Yet, their lifestyle frequently relies on systems that contribute to global inequality and environmental strain. This internal contradiction is central to the Bobo narrative.

Aesthetic Appreciation and Cultural Capital: A strong emphasis on aesthetics defines the Bobo lifestyle. From their home décor (think reclaimed wood and vintage furniture) to their choice of music and art, they cultivate an image of refined taste and cultural sophistication.

Community Engagement and Exclusivity: Bobos often participate in local community initiatives and support small businesses. However, the very nature of their lifestyle – often confined to upscale neighborhoods and exclusive social circles – can inadvertently create a sense of exclusivity that contradicts their progressive ideals.

The Critiques of the Bobo Lifestyle:

The Bobo lifestyle isn't without its critics. Many argue that it's a form of "conspicuous consumption" disguised as ethical living. The high cost of sustainable and artisanal products often renders them inaccessible to those less fortunate, highlighting the inherent inequalities within the system.

The Hypocrisy Argument:

One of the most common critiques centers on the hypocrisy implied by consuming ethically sourced goods while simultaneously benefiting from a system that perpetuates global inequality and environmental damage. The argument is that the act of purchasing "ethical" products becomes a form of self-congratulatory virtue signaling, overshadowing the systemic changes necessary for genuine progress.

The Accessibility Issue:

The inherent cost associated with the Bobo lifestyle creates a significant barrier to entry. The financial resources required to support ethical consumption at a premium price point exclude large segments of the population, effectively limiting the "Bobo" identity to a privileged few.

The Evolution and Relevance of Bobos in Paradise:

Despite the criticisms, the Bobo lifestyle continues to hold relevance in today's society. It represents a cultural shift toward more mindful consumption and a heightened awareness of social and environmental issues. While it's crucial to address the inherent contradictions, the increasing demand for ethically sourced products and sustainable practices reflects a broader societal shift towards greater responsibility and accountability.

Conclusion:

The "Bobos in Paradise" lifestyle presents a fascinating paradox: a desire to live ethically within a system of privilege. While the critiques of hypocrisy and accessibility are valid, the Bobo phenomenon highlights a growing societal awareness of ethical consumption and social responsibility. The future of the Bobo lifestyle likely depends on a genuine commitment to addressing the inherent contradictions and striving for inclusivity rather than maintaining a form of affluent exclusivity. It's a complex and evolving ideal, but its continued presence signifies a shift in societal values, however imperfectly realized.

FAQs:

1. Are all wealthy individuals Bobos? No, wealth alone does not define a Bobo. The key distinction lies in the conscious effort to integrate ethical and sustainable practices within a lifestyle of affluence.
2. Is the Bobo lifestyle sustainable in the long term? The long-term sustainability of the Bobo lifestyle depends on addressing its inherent contradictions. True sustainability requires systemic change, not simply individual consumption choices.
3. How can I incorporate Bobo-like values into my life without being wealthy? Focusing on mindful consumption, supporting local businesses, reducing waste, and advocating for social and environmental justice are steps anyone can take, regardless of their income level.
4. Is the Bobo lifestyle a genuine social movement or a trend? It's a blend of both. While it may be rooted in a trend towards conscious consumption, it also reflects broader social and environmental concerns that are driving genuine societal change.
5. What are the potential downsides of identifying as a Bobo? The risk lies in inadvertently contributing to the perception of exclusivity and elitism, undermining the very progressive values the lifestyle intends to embody.

bobos in paradise: Bobos in Paradise David Brooks, 2010-05-11 In his bestselling work of

"comic sociology," David Brooks coins a new word, Bobo, to describe today's upper class—those who have wed the bourgeois world of capitalist enterprise to the hippie values of the bohemian counterculture. Their hybrid lifestyle is the atmosphere we breathe, and in this witty and serious look at the cultural consequences of the information age, Brooks has defined a new generation. Do you believe that spending \$15,000 on a media center is vulgar, but that spending \$15,000 on a slate shower stall is a sign that you are at one with the Zenlike rhythms of nature? Do you work for one of those visionary software companies where people come to work wearing hiking boots and glacier glasses, as if a wall of ice were about to come sliding through the parking lot? If so, you might be a Bobo.

bobos in paradise: The Paradise Suite David Brooks, 2011-10-25 Originally published as: *Bobos in Paradise: the new upper class and how they got there*, 2000; and: *On Paradise Drive: how we live now (and always have) in the future tense*, 2004.

bobos in paradise: On Paradise Drive David Brooks, 2004-06-02 The author of the acclaimed bestseller *Bobos in Paradise*, which hilariously described the upscale American culture, takes a witty look at how being American shapes us, and how America's suburban civilization will shape the world's future. Take a look at Americans in their natural habitat. You see suburban guys at Home Depot doing that special manly, waddling walk that American men do in the presence of large amounts of lumber; super-efficient ubermoms who chair school auctions, organize the PTA, and weigh less than their children; workaholic corporate types boarding airplanes while talking on their cell phones in a sort of panic because they know that when the door closes they have to turn their precious phone off and it will be like somebody stepped on their trachea. Looking at all this, you might come to the conclusion that we Americans are not the most profound people on earth. Indeed, there are millions around the world who regard us as the great bimbos of the globe: hardworking and fun, but also materialistic and spiritually shallow. They've got a point. As you drive through the sprawling suburbs or eat in the suburban chain restaurants (which if they merged would be called Chili's Olive Garden Hard Rock Outback Cantina), questions do occur. Are we really as shallow as we look? Is there anything that unites us across the divides of politics, race, class, and geography? What does it mean to be American? Well, mentality matters, and sometimes mentality is all that matters. As diverse as we are, as complacent as we sometimes seem, Americans are united by a common mentality, which we have inherited from our ancestors and pass on, sometimes unreflectingly, to our kids. We are united by future-mindedness. We see the present from the vantage point of the future. We are tantalized, at every second of every day, by the awareness of grand possibilities ahead of us, by the bounty we can realize just over the next ridge. This mentality leads us to work feverishly hard, move more than any other people on earth, switch jobs, switch religions. It makes us anxious and optimistic, manic and discombobulating. Even in the superficiality of modern suburban life, there is some deeper impulse still throbbing in the heart of average Americans. That impulse is the subject of this book.

bobos in paradise: The Social Animal David Brooks, 2012-01-03 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER With unequalled insight and brio, New York Times columnist David Brooks has long explored and explained the way we live. Now Brooks turns to the building blocks of human flourishing in a multilayered, profoundly illuminating work grounded in everyday life. This is the story of how success happens, told through the lives of one composite American couple, Harold and Erica. Drawing on a wealth of current research from numerous disciplines, Brooks takes Harold and Erica from infancy to old age, illustrating a fundamental new understanding of human nature along the way: The unconscious mind, it turns out, is not a dark, vestigial place, but a creative one, where most of the brain's work gets done. This is the realm where character is formed and where our most important life decisions are made—the natural habitat of *The Social Animal*. Brooks reveals the deeply social aspect of our minds and exposes the bias in modern culture that overemphasizes rationalism, individualism, and IQ. He demolishes conventional definitions of success and looks toward a culture based on trust and humility. *The Social Animal* is a moving intellectual adventure, a story of achievement and a defense of progress. It is an essential book for our time—one that will

have broad social impact and will change the way we see ourselves and the world.

bobos in paradise: The Second Mountain David Brooks, 2019-04-16 NO.1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE SOCIAL ANIMAL Are you on your first or second mountain? Is life about you - or others? About success - or something deeper? The world tells us that we should pursue our self-interest: career wins, high status, nice things. These are the goals of our first mountain. But at some point in our lives we might find that we're not interested in what other people tell us to want. We want the things that are truly worth wanting. This is the second mountain. What does it mean to look beyond yourself and find a moral cause? To forget about independence and discover dependence - to be utterly enmeshed in a web of warm relationships? What does it mean to value intimacy, devotion, responsibility and commitment above individual freedom? In *The Second Mountain* David Brooks explores the meaning and possibilities that scaling a second mountain offer us and the four commitments that most commonly move us there: family, vocation, philosophy and community. Inspiring, personal and full of joy, this book will help you discover why you were really put on this earth.

bobos in paradise: The Bourgeois Virtues Deirdre Nansen, 2010-03-15 For a century and a half, the artists and intellectuals of Europe have scorned the bourgeoisie. And for a millennium and a half, the philosophers and theologians of Europe have scorned the marketplace. The bourgeois life, capitalism, Mencken's "booboisie" and David Brooks's "bobos"—all have been, and still are, framed as being responsible for everything from financial to moral poverty, world wars, and spiritual desuetude. Countering these centuries of assumptions and unexamined thinking is Deirdre McCloskey's *The Bourgeois Virtues*, a magnum opus that offers a radical view: capitalism is good for us. McCloskey's sweeping, charming, and even humorous survey of ethical thought and economic realities—from Plato to Barbara Ehrenreich—overturns every assumption we have about being bourgeois. Can you be virtuous and bourgeois? Do markets improve ethics? Has capitalism made us better as well as richer? Yes, yes, and yes, argues McCloskey, who takes on centuries of capitalism's critics with her erudition and sheer scope of knowledge. Applying a new tradition of "virtue ethics" to our lives in modern economies, she affirms American capitalism without ignoring its faults and celebrates the bourgeois lives we actually live, without supposing that they must be lives without ethical foundations. High Noon, Kant, Bill Murray, the modern novel, van Gogh, and of course economics and the economy all come into play in a book that can only be described as a monumental project and a life's work. *The Bourgeois Virtues* is nothing less than a dazzling reinterpretation of Western intellectual history, a dead-serious reply to the critics of capitalism—and a surprising page-turner.

bobos in paradise: The Road to Character David Brooks, 2015-04-14 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • David Brooks challenges us to rebalance the scales between the focus on external success—"résumé virtues"—and our core principles. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE ECONOMIST With the wisdom, humor, curiosity, and sharp insights that have brought millions of readers to his New York Times column and his previous bestsellers, David Brooks has consistently illuminated our daily lives in surprising and original ways. In *The Social Animal*, he explored the neuroscience of human connection and how we can flourish together. Now, in *The Road to Character*, he focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. Looking to some of the world's greatest thinkers and inspiring leaders, Brooks explores how, through internal struggle and a sense of their own limitations, they have built a strong inner character. Labor activist Frances Perkins understood the need to suppress parts of herself so that she could be an instrument in a larger cause. Dwight Eisenhower organized his life not around impulsive self-expression but considered self-restraint. Dorothy Day, a devout Catholic convert and champion of the poor, learned as a young woman the vocabulary of simplicity and surrender. Civil rights pioneers A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin learned reticence and the logic of self-discipline, the need to distrust oneself even while waging a noble crusade. Blending psychology, politics, spirituality, and confessional, *The Road to Character* provides an opportunity for us to rethink our priorities, and strive to build rich inner lives marked by humility and moral depth. "Joy," David Brooks writes, "is a

byproduct experienced by people who are aiming for something else. But it comes." Praise for *The Road to Character* "A hyper-readable, lucid, often richly detailed human story."—The New York Times Book Review "This profound and eloquent book is written with moral urgency and philosophical elegance."—Andrew Solomon, author of *Far from the Tree* and *The Noonday Demon* "A powerful, haunting book that works its way beneath your skin."—The Guardian "Original and eye-opening . . . Brooks is a normative version of Malcolm Gladwell, culling from a wide array of scientists and thinkers to weave an idea bigger than the sum of its parts."—USA Today

bobos in paradise: *Starbucked* Taylor Clark, 2007-11-05 *Starbucked* will be the first book to explore the incredible rise of the Starbucks Corporation and the caffeine-crazy culture that fueled its success. Part *Fast Food Nation*, part *Bobos in Paradise*, *Starbucked* combines investigative heft with witty cultural observation in telling the story of how the coffeehouse movement changed our everyday lives, from our evolving neighborhoods and workplaces to the ways we shop, socialize, and self-medicate. In *Starbucked*, Taylor Clark provides an objective, meticulously reported look at the volatile issues like gentrification and fair trade that distress activists and coffee zealots alike. Through a cast of characters that includes coffee-wild hippies, business sharks, slackers, Hollywood trendsetters and more, *Starbucked* explores how America transformed into a nation of coffee gourmets in only a few years, how Starbucks manipulates psyches and social habits to snare loyal customers, and why many of the things we think we know about the coffee commodity chain are false.

bobos in paradise: *Bella Tuscany* Frances Mayes, 2003-08-05 Frances Mayes, whose enchanting #1 New York Times bestseller *Under the Tuscan Sun* made the world fall in love with Tuscany, invites readers back for a delightful new season of friendship, festivity, and food, there and throughout Italy. Having spent her summers in Tuscany for the past several years, Frances Mayes relished the opportunity to experience the pleasures of primavera, an Italian spring. A sabbatical from teaching in San Francisco allowed her to return to Cortona—and her beloved house, Bramasole—just as the first green appeared on the rocky hillsides. *Bella Tuscany*, a companion volume to *Under the Tuscan Sun*, is her passionate and lyrical account of her continuing love affair with Italy. Now truly at home there, Mayes writes of her deepening connection to the land, her flourishing friendships with local people, the joys of art, food, and wine, and the rewards and occasional heartbreaks of her villa's ongoing restoration. It is also a memoir of a season of change, and of renewed possibility. As spring becomes summer she revives Bramasole's lush gardens, meets the challenges of learning a new language, tours regions from Sicily to the Veneto, and faces transitions in her family life. Filled with recipes from her Tuscan kitchen and written in the sensuous and evocative prose that has become her hallmark, *Bella Tuscany* is a celebration of the sweet life in Italy. Now with an excerpt from Frances Mayes's latest southern memoir, *Under Magnolia*.

bobos in paradise: The Social Animal David Brooks, 2012 From the influential and hugely popular New York Times columnist and bestselling author of *Bobos in Paradise* comes a landmark exploration of how human beings and communities succeed.

bobos in paradise: Don't Get Too Comfortable David Rakoff, 2010-06-04 *The Indignities of Coach Class*, *the Torments of Low Thread Count*, *the Never-Ending Quest for Artisanal Olive Oil*, and *Other First World Problems* David Rakoff's collection of autobiographical essays, *Fraud*, established him as one of our funniest, most insightful writers. In *Don't Get Too Comfortable*, Rakoff journeys into the land of plenty that is contemporary North America. Rarely have greed, vanity, selfishness, and vapidness been so mercilessly and wittily portrayed. Whether contrasting the elegance of one of the last flights of the supersonic Concorde with the good times and chicken wings of Hooters Air, portraying the rarified universe of Paris fashion shows where an evening dress can cost as much as four years of college, or traveling to a private island off the coast of Belize to watch a soft-core Playboy TV shoot, where he is provided with his very own personal manservant, David Rakoff takes us on a bitingly funny grand tour of our culture of excess, delving into the manic getting and spending that defines the North American way of life. Somewhere along the line, our healthy self-regard has exploded into obliterating narcissism, and Rakoff is there to map that frontier. He

sits through the grotesqueries of “avant garde” vaudeville in Times Square immediately following 9/11. Twenty days without food allows him to experience firsthand the wonders of “detoxification,” and the frozen world of cryonics, whose promise of eternal life is the ultimate status symbol, leaves him very cold indeed (much to our good fortune). At once a Wildean satire of our ridiculous culture of overconsumption and a plea for a little human decency, *Don't Get Too Comfortable* is a biting funny grand tour of our special circle of gilded-age hell.

bobos in paradise: The Man Who Quit Money Mark Sundeen, 2012-03-06 Grand Prize Winner of the 2015 Green Book Festival Mark Sundeen's new book, *The Unsettlers*, is coming in January 2017 from Riverhead Books In 2000, Daniel Suelo left his life savings—all thirty dollars of it—in a phone booth. He has lived without money—and with a newfound sense of freedom and security—ever since. *The Man Who Quit Money* is an account of how one man learned to live, sanely and happily, without earning, receiving, or spending a single cent. Suelo doesn't pay taxes, or accept food stamps or welfare. He lives in caves in the Utah canyonlands, forages wild foods and gourmet discards. He no longer even carries an I.D. Yet he manages to amply fulfill not only the basic human needs—for shelter, food, and warmth—but, to an enviable degree, the universal desires for companionship, purpose, and spiritual engagement. In retracing the surprising path and guiding philosophy that led Suelo into this way of life, Sundeen raises provocative and riveting questions about the decisions we all make, by default or by design, about how we live—and how we might live better.

bobos in paradise: Privilege Ross Gregory Douthat, 2005-03-02 Part memoir, part social critique, *Privilege* is an absorbing assessment of one of the world's most celebrated universities: Harvard. In this sharp, insightful account, Douthat evaluates his social and academic education.

bobos in paradise: Bobo World A. A. Roberts, 2003-01-01 A mysterious light warns Bobo that a supernatural storm is out to destroy him, and that his only recourse is to reach a strange planet he's only seen in his dreams if he wants to survive.

bobos in paradise: Millennials Rising Neil Howe, William Strauss, 2009-01-16 By the authors of the bestselling *13th Gen*, an incisive, in-depth examination of the Millennials—the generation born after 1982. In this remarkable account, certain to stir the interest of educators, counselors, parents, and people in all types of business as well as young people themselves, Neil Howe and William Strauss provide the definitive analysis of a powerful generation: the Millennials. Having looked at oceans of data, taken their own polls, talked to hundreds of kids, parents, and teachers, and reflected on the rhythms of history, Howe and Strauss explain how Millennials have turned out to be so dramatically different from Xers and boomers. *Millennials Rising* provides a fascinating narrative of America's next great generation.

bobos in paradise: Making Patriots Walter Berns, 2002-09-15 Although Samuel Johnson once remarked that patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels, over the course of the history of the United States we have seen our share of heroes: patriots who have willingly put their lives at risk for this country and, especially, its principles. And this is even more remarkable given that the United States is a country founded on the principles of equality and democracy that encourage individuality and autonomy far more readily than public spiritedness and self-sacrifice. Walter Berns's *Making Patriots* is a pithy and provocative essay on precisely this paradox. How is patriotism inculcated in a system that, some argue, is founded on self-interest? Expertly and intelligibly guiding the reader through the history and philosophy of patriotism in a republic, from the ancient Greeks through contemporary life, Berns considers the unique nature of patriotism in the United States and its precarious state. And he argues that while both public education and the influence of religion once helped to foster a public-minded citizenry, the very idea of patriotism is currently under attack. Berns finds the best answers to his questions in the thought and words of Abraham Lincoln, who understood perhaps better than anyone what the principles of democracy meant and what price adhering to them may exact. The graves at Arlington and Gettysburg and Omaha Beach in Normandy bear witness to the fact that self-interested individuals can become patriots, and *Making Patriots* is a compelling exploration of how this was done and how it might be again.

bobos in paradise: From Politics to the Pews Michele F. Margolis, 2018-08-17 One of the most

substantial divides in American politics is the “God gap.” Religious voters tend to identify with and support the Republican Party, while secular voters generally support the Democratic Party. Conventional wisdom suggests that religious differences between Republicans and Democrats have produced this gap, with voters sorting themselves into the party that best represents their religious views. Michele F. Margolis offers a bold challenge to the conventional wisdom, arguing that the relationship between religion and politics is far from a one-way street that starts in the church and ends at the ballot box. Margolis contends that political identity has a profound effect on social identity, including religion. Whether a person chooses to identify as religious and the extent of their involvement in a religious community are, in part, a response to political surroundings. In today’s climate of political polarization, partisan actors also help reinforce the relationship between religion and politics, as Democratic and Republican elites stake out divergent positions on moral issues and use religious faith to varying degrees when reaching out to voters.

bobos in paradise: *The Digital Plenitude* Jay David Bolter, 2019-05-07 How the creative abundance of today’s media culture was made possible by the decline of elitism in the arts and the rise of digital media. Media culture today encompasses a universe of forms—websites, video games, blogs, books, films, television and radio programs, magazines, and more—and a multitude of practices that include making, remixing, sharing, and critiquing. This multiplicity is so vast that it cannot be comprehended as a whole. In this book, Jay David Bolter traces the roots of our media multiverse to two developments in the second half of the twentieth century: the decline of elite art and the rise of digital media. Bolter explains that we no longer have a collective belief in “Culture with a capital C.” The hierarchies that ranked, for example, classical music as more important than pop, literary novels as more worthy than comic books, and television and movies as unserious have broken down. The art formerly known as high takes its place in the media plenitude. The elite culture of the twentieth century has left its mark on our current media landscape in the form of what Bolter calls “popular modernism.” Meanwhile, new forms of digital media have emerged and magnified these changes, offering new platforms for communication and expression. Bolter outlines a series of dichotomies that characterize our current media culture: catharsis and flow, the continuous rhythm of digital experience; remix (fueled by the internet’s vast resources for sampling and mixing) and originality; history (not replayable) and simulation (endlessly replayable); and social media and coherent politics.

bobos in paradise: *The Best American Essays 2012* David Brooks, Robert Atwan, 2012-10-02 Nonfiction from Malcolm Gladwell, Francine Prose, Jonathan Franzen, and more: “There is not a dud in the bunch. [An] exhilarating collection.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) Whether a personal reflection on a wife’s decline from Alzheimer’s, a critique of the overdiagnosis of mood disorders, a lighthearted look at menopause, a friend’s commentary on David Foster Wallace’s heartbreaking suicide, or a memoir of teaching underprivileged children, this collection highlights the best essays of the year with contributions from: Benjamin Anastas • Marcia Angell • Miah Arnold • Geoffrey Bent • Robert Boyers • Dudley Clendinen • Paul Collins • Mark Doty • Mark Edmundson • Joseph Epstein • Jonathan Franzen • Malcolm Gladwell • Peter Hessler • Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough • Garret Keizer • David J. Lawless • Alan Lightman • Sandra Tsing Loh • Ken Murray • Francine Prose • Richard Sennett • Lauren Slater • Jose Antonio Vargas • Wesley Yang “A trove of fine writing on big issues.” —Kirkus Reviews

bobos in paradise: *The Abundant Community* John McKnight, Peter Block, 2010-06-14 We need our neighbors and community to stay healthy, produce jobs, raise our children, and care for those on the margin. Institutions and professional services have reached their limit of their ability to help us. The consumer society tells us that we are insufficient and that we must purchase what we need from specialists and systems outside the community. We have become consumers and clients, not citizens and neighbors. John McKnight and Peter Block show that we have the capacity to find real and sustainable satisfaction right in our neighborhood and community. This book reports on voluntary, self-organizing structures that focus on gifts and value hospitality, the welcoming of strangers. It shows how to reweave our social fabric, especially in our neighborhoods. In this way we collectively

have enough to create a future that works for all.

bobos in paradise: *Good Enough* Kate Bowler, Jessica Richie, 2022-02-17 ***THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER*** We begin to feel less alone, more loved and less judged when good is . . . enough. In this collection of 40ish short spiritual devotionals, *Good Enough* reveals the small things we can do to inch toward a deeper, richer, truer kind of faith. Through blessings, prayers and human truths, learn to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress, and discover a companion for when you want to stop feeling guilty that you're not living your best life now. Hailed by Glennon Doyle as 'the Christian Joan Didion', in these gorgeously written reflections Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie proffer fresh imagination for how truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amidst the chaos of life. Their words celebrate kindness, honesty and interdependence in a culture that rewards ruthless individualism and blind optimism. Ultimately, in these pages we can rest in the encouragement to strive for what is possible today - while recognising that though we are finite, the life in front of us can still be beautiful.

bobos in paradise: *Bobos in Paradise: 20th Anniversary Edition* David Brooks, 2020-10-06

bobos in paradise: *First Son* Bill Minutaglio, 2001-01-18 In one of the most unprecedented developments in the history of national politics, George W. Bush abruptly emerged to lead all presidential aspirants in the national polls for the 2000 election. Yet voters know very little about the man, beyond his famous name and his place in one of the nation's most powerful political dynasties. *First Son* is a true, riveting family saga about extraordinary power and politics in America and in the unharnessed state--a state of mind--called Texas. The story begins with the turn-of-the-century emergence of the influential Bush-Walker clan and of Prescott Bush, the Connecticut patrician who ingrained in his family an ethos that continues to exert influence on his son, former President George Bush, and his grandsons, George W. and Jeb. How these scions of the Bush dynasty struggle to live up to their enduring legacy is the central theme of this colorful and perceptive portrait the first authentic book on the governor of Texas. In the past year, award-winning Texas writer Bill Minutaglio has met with George W. Bush and interviewed dozens of people close to him, from his brother Governor Jeb Bush of Florida to uncles and cousins, from current and former political advisers to high-ranking insiders from his father's years in the White House. Fraternity buddies, political operatives, George W.'s employers, and even ardent critics of the Bush family bring this story to life--from the society circles in his native Connecticut to the family compound in Maine to the backwaters of his adopted Texas. The result is a book that is nuanced, insightful, and surprising in the contradictions and complexities it reveals about this man. *First Son* vividly reconstructs George W. Bush's boarding-school days at one of the country's most exclusive institutions; his tenure in one of Yale's secret societies and as president of his unfettered fraternity; his attempts to follow his family's million-dollar path into the wide-open Texas oil patch; his role in major league baseball as the public face and head cheerleader for the Texas Rangers; and, finally, his rise to governor of Texas and national political force, executed with more hard-edged calculation than many people realize. Written with precision, verve, and fair-minded balance, *First Son* will be the political story of 2000--the eye-opening tale of a natural-born politician.

bobos in paradise: *The Influence of Affluence* Russ Alan Prince, Lewis Schiff, 2009-05-19 A compelling look at a new class of the affluent - the middle-class millionaires - whose attitudes and values are influencing and reshaping American life In this groundbreaking book, Russ Alan Prince and Lewis Schiff examine the far-reaching impact of the middle class millionaires--people who enjoy a net worth ranging from one million to ten million dollars and have earned rather than inherited their wealth. Comprising 8.4 million households and growing in number, the attitudes and behaviors of these working rich are exerting a powerful influence over our society. So who are these people? They believe in the benefits of hard work. They believe in investing in themselves, and in self improvement. They are more likely to focus on drawing financial gain from their work, and less inclined to be discouraged by failure. And they don't spend money on the extravagances indulged in by the very rich; instead, they wield their affluence according to middle-class values and ideals. From home security systems to health care, technology to travel, their spending choices are

affecting us all – from the products we buy, to the communities in which we live, to the aspirations and values of the broader middle class and American population as a whole. In the bestselling tradition of *Bobos in Paradise* and *The Millionaire Next Door*, *THE MIDDLE-CLASS MILLIONAIRE* is a captivating narrative – part sociology, and part aspirational journey into the lives, attitudes, and values of the middle-class millionaires. Based on extensive surveys and research into more than 3,600 middle-class millionaire households around the country, this book will reshape our understanding of what it takes to be successful – and how all of us can achieve similar success.

bobos in paradise: *Rich People Things* Chris Lehmann, 2011 Social criticism at its scorching-hot best.--Barbara Ehrenreich Think H.L. Mencken crossed with Jon Stewart.--The Phoenix In *Rich People Things*, Chris Lehmann lays bare the various dogmas and delusions that prop up plutocratic rule in the post-meltdown age. It's a humorous and harrowing tale of warped populism, phony reform, and blind deference to the nation's financial elite. As the author explains, American class privilege is very much like the idea of sex in a Catholic school--it's not supposed to exist in the first place, but once it presents itself in your mind's eye, you realize that it's everywhere. A concise and easy-to-use guide, *Rich People Things* catalogs the fortifications that shelter the opulent from the resentments of the hoi polloi. From ideological stanchions such as the Free Market through the castellation of media including *The New York Times* and *Wired* magazine, to gatekeepers such as David Brooks, Steve Forbes, and Alan Greenspan, Lehmann covers the vast array of comforting and comprehensive protections that allow the über-privileged to maintain their iron grip on almost half of America's wealth. With chapters on Malcolm Gladwell, the Supreme Court, the memoir, and more, no one is spared from Lehmann's pointed prose. Chris Lehmann is employed, ever precariously, as an editor for Yahoo! News, Bookforum, and *The Baffler*, while dissecting the excesses of his social betters for his column *Rich People Things* at *TheAwl.com*. He lives in Washington, DC, with his wife Ana Marie Cox and a quartet of excellent pets.

bobos in paradise: *Tailspin* Steven Brill, 2019-04-02 In this revelatory narrative covering the years 1967 to 2017, Steven Brill gives us a stunningly cogent picture of the broken system at the heart of our society. He shows us how, over the last half century, America's core values—meritocracy, innovation, due process, free speech, and even democracy itself—have somehow managed to power its decline into dysfunction. They have isolated our best and brightest, whose positions at the top have never been more secure or more remote. The result has been an erosion of responsibility and accountability, an epidemic of shortsightedness, an increasingly hollow economic and political center, and millions of Americans gripped by apathy and hopelessness. By examining the people and forces behind the rise of big-money lobbying, legal and financial engineering, the demise of private-sector unions, and a hamstrung bureaucracy, Brill answers the question on everyone's mind: How did we end up this way? Finally, he introduces us to those working quietly and effectively to repair the damages. At once a diagnosis of our national ills, a history of their development, and a prescription for a brighter future, *Tailspin* is a work of riveting journalism—and a welcome antidote to political despair.

bobos in paradise: *Class* Paul Fussell, 1992 This book describes the living-room artifacts, clothing styles, and intellectual proclivities of American classes from top to bottom.

bobos in paradise: *American Moderns* Christine Stansell, 2001-05 In the early years of the 20th century, a band of talented individualists living in Greenwich Village set out to change the world. Committed to free speech, free love, and political art, they swept away sexual prudery, stodgy bourgeois art, and political conservatism. Stansell offers a comprehensive history of this period that flourished briefly until America entered the First World War and patriotism trumped self-expression. Illustrations.

bobos in paradise: *Conspicuous Consumption* Thorstein Veblen, 2005-08-25 With its wry portrayal of a shallow, materialistic 'leisure class' obsessed by clothes, cars, consumer goods and climbing the social ladder, this withering satire on modern capitalism is as pertinent today as when it was written over a century ago.

bobos in paradise: *Bobos in Paradise* David Brooks, 2001 It used to be pretty easy to

distinguish between the bourgeois world of capitalism and the bohemian counterculture. The bourgeois worked for corporations, wore gray, and went to church; bohemians were artists and intellectuals. But now, the lines are blurred: It's hard to tell an espresso-sipping professor from a cappuccino-gulping banker. Laugh and sob as you read David Brooks' observations on the new dominant class. *Bobos in Paradise* is a witty and serious look at the cultural consequences of the information age and a penetrating description of how we live now.

bobos in paradise: *The Future and Its Enemies* Virginia Postrel, 2011-05-10 Today we have greater wealth, health, opportunity, and choice than at any time in history. Yet a chorus of intellectuals and politicians laments our current condition -- as slaves to technology, coarsened by popular culture, and insecure in the face of economic change. The future, they tell us, is dangerously out of control, and unless we precisely govern the forces of change, we risk disaster. In *The Future and Its Enemies*, Virginia Postrel explodes the myths behind these claims. Using examples that range from medicine to fashion, she explores how progress truly occurs and demonstrates that human betterment depends not on conformity to one central vision but on creativity and decentralized, open-ended trial and error. She argues that these two opposing world-views -- stasis vs. dynamism -- are replacing left and right to define our cultural and political debate as we enter the next century. In this bold exploration of how civilizations learn, Postrel heralds a fundamental shift in the way we view politics, culture, technology, and society as we face an unknown -- and invigorating -- future.

bobos in paradise: *Christ and Culture Revisited* D. A. Carson, 2012-01-31 Called to live in the world, but not to be of it, Christians must maintain a balancing act that becomes more precarious the further our culture departs from its Judeo-Christian roots. How should members of the church interact with such a culture, especially as deeply enmeshed as most of us have become? In this award-winning book -- now in paperback and with a new preface -- D. A. Carson applies his masterful touch to that problem. After exploring the classic typology of H. Richard Niebuhr with its five Christ-culture options, Carson offers an even more comprehensive paradigm for informing the Christian worldview. More than just theoretical, *Christ and Culture Revisited* is a practical guide for helping Christians untangle current messy debates about living in the world.

bobos in paradise: *This Will Make You Smarter* John Brockman, 2012-02-14 Featuring a foreword by David Brooks, *This Will Make You Smarter* presents brilliant—but accessible—ideas to expand every mind. What scientific concept would improve everybody's cognitive toolkit? This is the question John Brockman, publisher of Edge.org, posed to the world's most influential thinkers. Their visionary answers flow from the frontiers of psychology, philosophy, economics, physics, sociology, and more. Surprising and enlightening, these insights will revolutionize the way you think about yourself and the world. Contributors include: Daniel Kahneman on the "focusing illusion" Jonah Lehrer on controlling attention Richard Dawkins on experimentation Aubrey De Grey on conquering our fear of the unknown Martin Seligman on the ingredients of well-being Nicholas Carr on managing "cognitive load" Steven Pinker on win-win negotiating Daniel Goleman on understanding our connection to the natural world Matt Ridley on tapping collective intelligence Lisa Randall on effective theorizing Brian Eno on "ecological vision" J. Craig Venter on the multiple possible origins of life Helen Fisher on temperament Sam Harris on the flow of thought Lawrence Krauss on living with uncertainty

bobos in paradise: *The Sum of Small Things* Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, 2017-05-15 How the leisure class has been replaced by a new elite, and how their consumer habits affect us all In today's world, the leisure class has been replaced by a new elite. Highly educated and defined by cultural capital rather than income bracket, these individuals earnestly buy organic, carry NPR tote bags, and breast-feed their babies. They care about discreet, inconspicuous consumption—like eating free-range chicken and heirloom tomatoes, wearing organic cotton shirts and TOMS shoes, and listening to the Serial podcast. They use their purchasing power to hire nannies and housekeepers, to cultivate their children's growth, and to practice yoga and Pilates. In *The Sum of Small Things*, Elizabeth Currid-Halkett dubs this segment of society "the aspirational class" and discusses how,

through deft decisions about education, health, parenting, and retirement, the aspirational class reproduces wealth and upward mobility, deepening the ever-wider class divide. Exploring the rise of the aspirational class, Currid-Halkett considers how much has changed since the 1899 publication of Thorstein Veblen's *Theory of the Leisure Class*. In that inflammatory classic, which coined the phrase "conspicuous consumption," Veblen described upper-class frivolities: men who used walking sticks for show, and women who bought silver flatware despite the effectiveness of cheaper aluminum utensils. Now, Currid-Halkett argues, the power of material goods as symbols of social position has diminished due to their accessibility. As a result, the aspirational class has altered its consumer habits away from overt materialism to more subtle expenditures that reveal status and knowledge. And these transformations influence how we all make choices. With a rich narrative and extensive interviews and research, *The Sum of Small Things* illustrates how cultural capital leads to lifestyle shifts and what this forecasts, not just for the aspirational class but for everyone.

bobos in paradise: Understanding Digital Culture Vincent Miller, 2012-08-15 This is an outstanding book. It is one of only a few scholarly texts that successfully combine a nuanced theoretical understanding of the digital age with empirical case studies of contemporary media culture. The scope is impressive, ranging from questions of digital inequality to emergent forms of cyberpolitics. - Nick Gane, York University Well written, very up-to-date with a good balance of examples and theory. It's good to have all the major issues covered in one book. - Peter Millard, Portsmouth University This is just the text I was looking for to enable first year undergraduates to develop their critical understanding of the technologies they have embedded so completely in their lives. - Chris Simpson, University College of St Mark & St John This is more than just another book on Internet studies. Tracing the pervasive influence of 'digital culture' throughout contemporary life, this text integrates socio-economic understandings of the 'information society' with the cultural studies approach to production, use, and consumption of digital media and multimedia. Refreshingly readable and packed with examples from profiling databases and mashups to cybersex and the truth about social networking, *Understanding Digital Culture*: Crosses disciplines to give a balanced account of the social, economic and cultural dimensions of the information society. Illuminates the increasing importance of mobile, wireless and converged media technologies in everyday life. Unpacks how the information society is transforming and challenging traditional notions of crime, resistance, war and protest, community, intimacy and belonging. Charts the changing cultural forms associated with new media and its consumption, including music, gaming, microblogging and online identity. Illustrates the above through a series of contemporary, in-depth case studies of digital culture. This is the perfect text for students looking for a full account of the information society, virtual cultures, sociology of the Internet and new media.

bobos in paradise: The End Is Always Near Dan Carlin, 2019-10-29 Now a New York Times Bestseller. The creator of the wildly popular award-winning podcast *Hardcore History* looks at some of the apocalyptic moments from the past as a way to frame the challenges of the future. Do tough times create tougher people? Can humanity handle the power of its weapons without destroying itself? Will human technology or capabilities ever peak or regress? No one knows the answers to such questions, but no one asks them in a more interesting way than Dan Carlin. In *The End is Always Near*, Dan Carlin looks at questions and historical events that force us to consider what sounds like fantasy; that we might suffer the same fate that all previous eras did. Will our world ever become a ruin for future archaeologists to dig up and explore? The questions themselves are both philosophical and like something out of *The Twilight Zone*. Combining his trademark mix of storytelling, history and weirdness Dan Carlin connects the past and future in fascinating and colorful ways. At the same time the questions he asks us to consider involve the most important issue imaginable: human survival. From the collapse of the Bronze Age to the challenges of the nuclear era the issue has hung over humanity like a persistent Sword of Damocles. Inspired by his podcast, *The End is Always Near* challenges the way we look at the past and ourselves. In this absorbing compendium, Carlin embarks on a whole new set of stories and major cliffhangers that will keep readers enthralled. Idiosyncratic and erudite, offbeat yet profound, *The End is Always Near*

examines issues that are rarely presented, and makes the past immediately relevant to our very turbulent present.

bobos in paradise: Table for Two David Dunham, Krista Dunham, 2021-04-26 In this redemptive, intimate story, Krista and David Dunham share personal narratives, interactive exercises, and helpful counseling information for individuals suffering from an eating disorder and loved ones walking alongside them. Table for Two fosters a sense of community and compassion for those navigating recovery together, illustrating ...

bobos in paradise: American Awakening John Kingston, 2020-07-28 A healthy and united America--perhaps a country more united than it has ever been--is truly possible, and it starts with us. John Kingston draws on wisdom from history, science, faith, and culture, along with his own experiences, to offer eight principles for discovering purpose, meaning, and true community. We live in the greatest peace and prosperity that the world has ever known, but Americans are feeling more division, isolation, depression, and despair than ever before. These are issues of the soul. We seem unable to find purpose and meaning. We can't find the life that is truly life--a vibrant and purpose-filled way of living best experienced together. From his youth, Kingston has always carried a vision for a free and united America. With an approachable and conversational style, as well as a dash of humor, Kingston draws on a diverse and compelling collection of wisdom--the parables of the Bible and the philosophy of Aristotle, the legacy of Nelson Mandela and the speeches of Abraham Lincoln, the songs of Bruce Springsteen and current studies from the best neuro and social scientists today--to remind us that there is no them, there is only us, and we're in this together. In American Awakening, Kingston offers eight timeless principles for breaking through this darkness and despair and cultivating a radical togetherness, both here in this country and around the globe. You'll discover the profound impact of: In-person connection Making more from less Discovering purpose Redeeming adversity Responding instead of reacting Finding your unique sense of belonging Wherever you find yourself politically or spiritually, a healthy and united America starts with you. Join the Awakening movement and let's rediscover who we are--together.

bobos in paradise: The National Road Tom Zoellner, 2020-10-13 This collection of eloquent essays that examine the relationship between the American landscape and the national character serves to remind us that despite our differences we all belong to the same land (Publishers Weekly). "How was it possible, I wondered, that all of this American land--in every direction--could be fastened together into a whole?" What does it mean when a nation accustomed to moving begins to settle down, when political discord threatens unity, and when technology disrupts traditional ways of building communities? Is a shared soil enough to reinvigorate a national spirit? From the embaattled newsrooms of small town newspapers to the pornography film sets of the Los Angeles basin, from the check-out lanes of Dollar General to the holy sites of Mormonism, from the nation's highest peaks to the razed remains of a cherished home, like a latter-day Woody Guthrie, Tom Zoellner takes to the highways and byways of a vast land in search of the soul of its people. By turns nostalgic and probing, incisive and enraged, Zoellner's reflections reveal a nation divided by faith, politics, and shifting economies, but--more importantly--one united by a shared sense of ownership in the common land.

bobos in paradise: The Vision Of The Annointed Thomas Sowell, 1995-07-14 A critique of the failed social policies of the past thirty years.

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