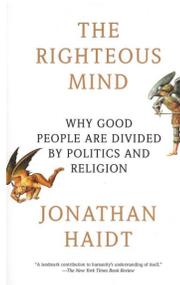


Books by the Stack



The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion by Jonathan Haidt

Presents a groundbreaking investigation into the origins of morality and the core of religion and politics, offering scholarly insight into the motivations behind cultural clashes that are polarizing America.

Why you'll like it: *Politics and global affairs. Accessible. Comprehensive. Conversational.*

About the Author: Jonathan Haidt is the Thomas Cooley Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University's Stern School of Business. He received his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992 and then did post-doctoral research at the University of Chicago and in Orissa, India. He taught at the University of Virginia for 16 years, where he conducted the research reported in *The Righteous Mind*. He lives in New York City.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the psychological and biological basis to explain why we vote the way we do, and why we hate some politicians but love other ones? How can your likelihood of voting Democrat or Republican be explained by science?
2. What morality theory was developed by Richard Shweder? What three main elements did he define and what impact did he claim they had on an individual's morality?
3. Why are moral values consistent from one culture to another, yet differ from culture to culture?
4. Evolution left us with a collection of emotions and intuitions, but which do we call moral or not moral? Why?
5. Describe individual versus group morality? What is the importance and purpose of each?
6. What was Thomas Jefferson's theory on dualism? How did he come to develop the concept and how did it impact her personal life?
7. What does the author mean by the "rider" and the "elephant" that reside within each person? What are the roles of each in the development of a person's righteous mind?
8. What is the difference between rationality and decision making?
9. What is the relationship between emotion and intuition? Are they linked at the level of origin or at a higher level of processing?
10. What did you find surprising about the facts introduced in the book?
11. Did you decide right away if you liked or disliked the book?

12. Did any part of the book elicit a strong emotional reaction?

13. Did the book meet your expectations?

(Questions provided by BookRags and group forums)



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