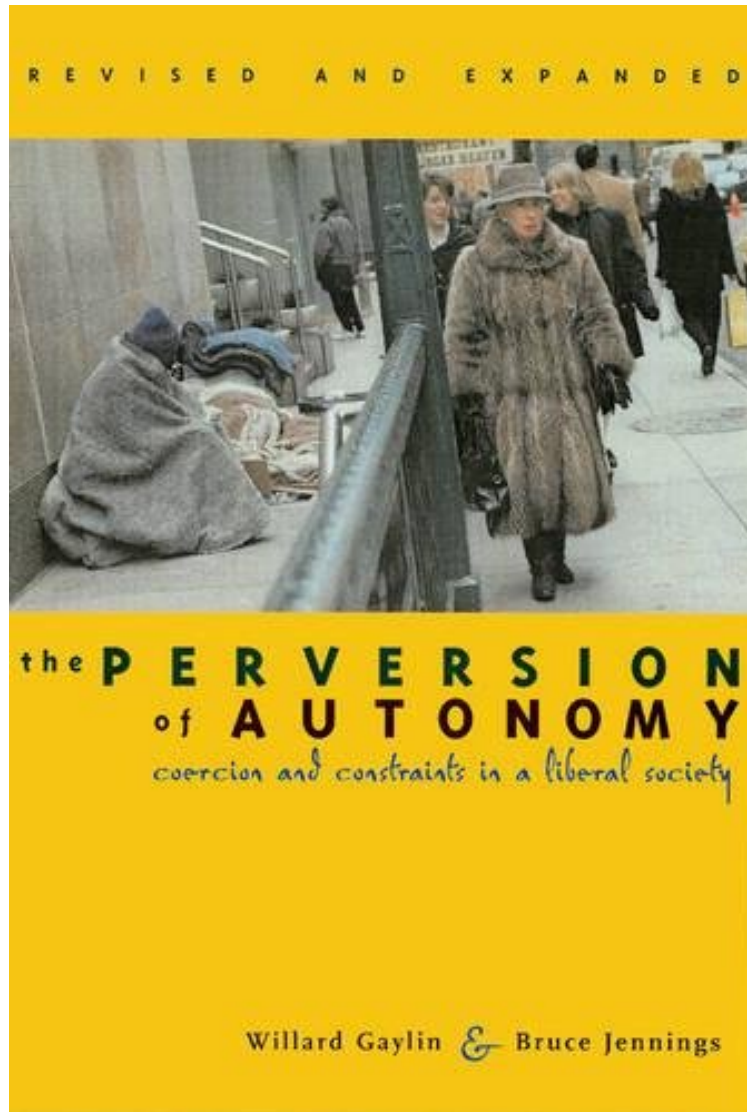


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The Perversion of Autonomy: Coercion and Constraints in a Liberal Society

Willard Gaylin MD, Bruce Jennings
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Willard Gaylin MD, Bruce Jennings : The Perversion of Autonomy: Coercion and Constraints in a Liberal Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perversion of Autonomy: Coercion and Constraints in a Liberal Society:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Who Pays?By gary morrisonAnother attempt to displace responsibility for our decline from structural inequality, onto that perennial conservative hobgoblin. "immorality" by

blaming our narcissism on the 60's. This book is bereft of research but unwittingly submits its authors in evidence to support the forgone conclusion, that universities have been bought out and are now in the hip pocket of multinationals in part thru foundation grants. Read the Perversion of Autonomy and you will be left wondering who would pay for the publication of tripe like this. I gave the book five stars because I believe the unintended question raised of just "who pays" is germane to understanding the nature of this book's authoritarian world view..

Modern psychological and political theory meet head-on in this powerful re-evaluation of America's contradictory and sometimes dangerous addiction to individualism. Best-selling author Gaylin and co-author Jennings investigate the contentious intersections of interdependence and autonomy, rights and public responsibility. They examine the painful abrasion occurring between America's tradition of personal freedom and privacy, as it rubs against the still valuable if almost vanishing ideals of sacrifice and social order. Our current culture of autonomy championed by both liberals on the left and libertarians on the right is based on the idea of rationality as the motivation for human conduct. But, as the authors remind us, people are not simply rational creatures; appeals to emotions are always far more effective than logical argument in changing our behavior. This timely edition includes a new preface; updated examples and illustrations throughout; and new coverage of contemporary social critics and their work since the publication of the first edition. Two essential new chapters, one on the movement to forgo life-sustaining treatment and the other on physician-assisted suicide, particularly clarify the authors' arguments. Drawing on these and numerous other illustrations with significant emphasis on the state of American health care, Gaylin and Jennings demonstrate that society has not just the right but the duty to occasionally invoke fear, shame, and guilt in order to motivate humane behavior. As cases of AIDS are once again on the upswing, as the dangerously mentally ill are allowed to wander free and untreated, as starvation and poverty still hold too many in its grip in the richest nation on the planet, this controversial book, considerably revised and expanded, is needed more than ever. If we are to indeed preserve and nurture a genuinely free and liberal society, the authors suggest that these "coercions" may be essential for the health and the maturity of a nation where we all too often avert our eyes, not seeing that our neighbor is in pain or trouble and needs our help.

"Gaylin and Jennings make eminently good sense, especially when one realizes that individuals are the building blocks of a community." "Putting the rights of the individual into balance with the community will be one of tomorrow's most pressing issues. Preview tomorrow's debate today through Will Gaylin and Bruce Jennings' very readable book." "Gaylin and Jennings make eminently good sense, especially when one realizes that individuals are the building blocks of a community." -- C. Everett Koop, MD, former Surgeon General of the United States; co-chair, National Ready to Learn Council, reviewing a previous edition or volume "Putting the rights of the individual into balance with the community will be one of tomorrow's most pressing issues. Preview tomorrow's debate today through Will Gaylin and Bruce Jennings' very readable book." -- The Honorable Richard D. Lamm, LLB, former Governor of Colorado; co-director of Center for Public Policy and Contemporary Issues, reviewing a previous edition or volume "Gaylin and Jennings make eminently good sense, especially when one realizes that individuals are the building blocks of a community." -- C. Everett Koop, MD, former Surgeon General of the United States; co-chair, National Ready to Learn Council "Putting the rights of the individual into balance with the community will be one of tomorrow's most pressing issues. Preview tomorrow's debate today through Will Gaylin and Bruce Jennings' very readable book." -- The Honorable Richard D. Lamm, LLB, former Governor of Colorado; co-director of Center for Public Policy and Contemporary Issues "Putting the rights of the individual into balance with the community will be one of tomorrow's most pressing issues. Preview tomorrow's debate today through Will Gaylin and Bruce Jennings' very readable book." -- The Honorable Richard D. Lamm, LLB, former Governor of Colorado; co-director of Center for Public Policy and Contemporary Issues "Gaylin and Jennings make eminently good sense, especially when one realizes that individuals are the building blocks of a community." -- C. Everett Koop, MD, former Surgeon General of the United States; co-chair, National Ready to Learn Council About the Author Willard Gaylin, MD, is a clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. He cofounded The Hastings Center in 1969 and is a member of the Human Rights Committee of the Institute of Medicine. Bruce Jennings is a senior research scholar at The Hastings Center, and also teaches at the Yale University School of Medicine in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. Trained as a political scientist, Jennings has written and lectured widely on social, educational, and public policy issues.