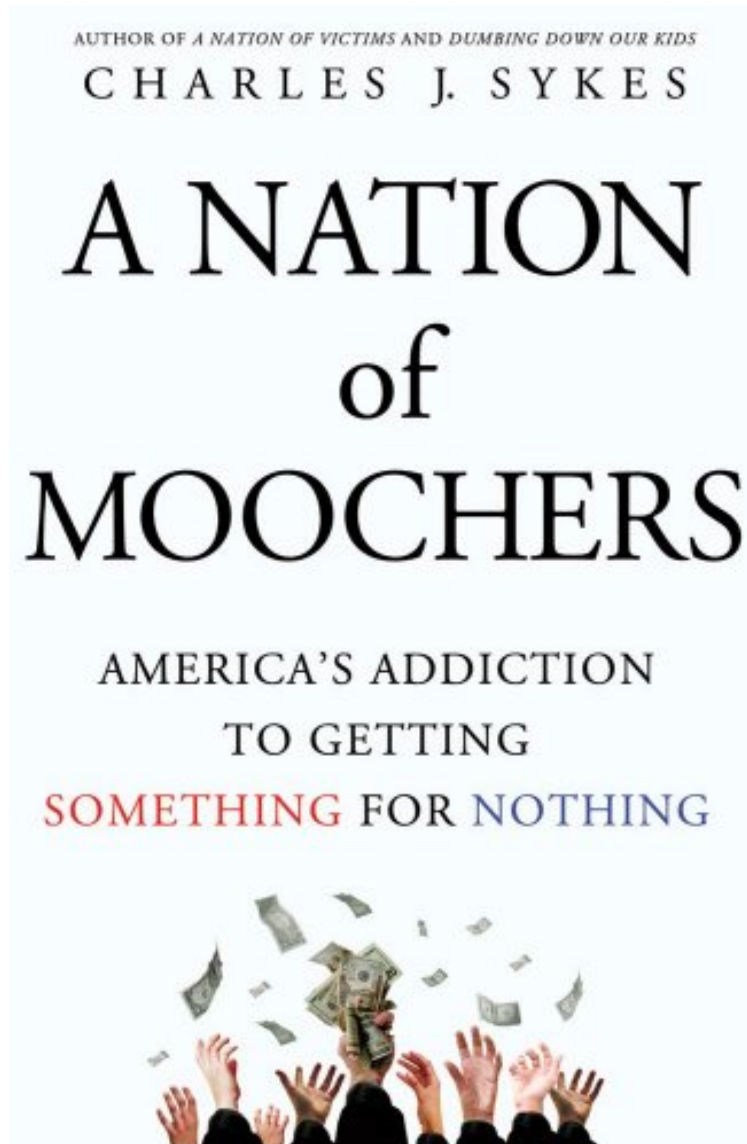


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# A Nation of Moochers: America's Addiction to Getting Something for Nothing

Charles J. Sykes

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**Charles J. Sykes : A Nation of Moochers: America's Addiction to Getting Something for Nothing** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Nation of Moochers: America's Addiction to Getting Something for Nothing:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An excellent, very readable, indictment of moochers from welfare queens to corporate rent-seekers. By Interested customer Although this is a well written book, I almost quit reading about half-way through, when I wearied of reading about individual fee-loaders. That appears to have happened to

many of those who have given this book negative reviews, accusing the author of having a hard heart, or even worse, being a conservative. . But I persevered into the second half of the book, where Sykes takes on the executive suite moochers, putting them where they belong--in the free-loaders club. With more moral blame, for they don't even have the excuse of need to justify their mooching. And when Sykes gets to the villainy of the post 2008 crash bail-out he quite rightly spares no one, including the Gucci-shod revolving door Treasury officials who showered the financial firms, notably Goldman, with taxpayer money to reward them for having brought about the crash, and the politicians, Democrat and Republican, who suborned these outrages..How can a "reviewer" complain about Sykes being a one-dimensional right-winger when he offers this trenchant quote about Goldman's rescue via the bailout of AIG:ldquo;One of the greatest mooches of all time was orchestrated behind closed doors, without transparency, by insiders who were more interested in scratching one anothersquo;s backs than protecting either the taxpayers or the integrity of the financial system they were supposedly saving.rdqquo;That sounds pretty harsh--albeit well-deserved--to me.Overall I found myself agreeing with virtually everything in the book. Which is scarcely surprising given his philosophy. Ordinarily, I prefer books which challenge my philosophy, and demand that I think about the arguments from the other side. This is one of the few books compatible with my views that was so well written that I enjoyed the reading, and actually learned a bit from it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Decent Book But Not GreatBy RayAt least 80% of this book is a collection of anecdotes and data about all of the people, groups and corporations that are the moochers of society. I'm not saying that we as a society don't need to see examples of the moochers of society....it just seems a bit much and after a while it gets boring. It's not until the last 20% of the book does Sykes get to solutions and what to do about and even the it's kind of nebulous. This book works up "the choir" but does nothing to wake up the moochers in the pews....because they're never going to read this book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Voice Crying in the WildernessBy TerryWhile Sykes' observations do not break any new ground, he is a very good writer and states his case very cogently. We all take it for granted that dependency is not a desirable human virtue, but collecting the many examples he relates makes a much more compelling case for being alarmed. No doubt he has been derided as a rightwing fanatic, but to be fair, he accuses some of our biggest corporations of the most egregious misuse of tax funds. I do take issue with his overgeneralization, however. For example, he lumps the efforts by unions to secure generous benefits for their members through questionable collective bargaining tactics in with the actions of those who demand huge handouts from the government. Even if the unions represent public employees, that is simply the process of negotiating benefits for people who are earning them, rather than "mooching" for handouts. What is really sad is that rational, objective thinkers like Sykes are rejected by both sides of our political spectrum. The Democrats don't get it, and the Republicans don't want to get it. We should draft someone like Sykes for President, even if he objects.

We have experienced a shift in American character: we've become a nation of moochers. Increasingly dependent on the efforts of others over our own, Americans are free to freeload. From the corporate bailouts on Wall Street to the alarming increases in personal default and dependency, from questionable tax exemptions to enormous pension, healthcare, and other entitlement costs, the new moocher culture cuts across lines of class, race, and private and public sectors. And the millions that plan and behave sensibly, only to bail out the profligate? They're angry.Charles Sykes' argument is not against compassion or legitimate charity, but targets the new moocher culture, in which self-reliance and personal responsibility have given way to mass grasping after handouts. A Nation of Moochers is a persuasively argued and entertaining rallying cry for Americans who are tired of playing by the rules and paying for those who don't.

ldquo;Charlie Sykes has hit another home run. The author of Profscam and A Nation of Victimsnbsp;takes aim at America's growing culture of entitlement and delivers a fusillade as hilarious as it is sobering. Sykes shows in devastating detail how we have slipped from being a nation of independent men and women to being a nation of moochers, happy to feed on the labors of others. nbsp;A Nation of Moochersnbsp;is partly the report of a cultural pathologist, partly the tough-love prescription of a skilled social physician. Sykes outlines the nature and depth of our malady and expertly lays out the recovery plan. Buy it. Read it. Everyone not part of the welfare-industrial complex will be glad you did.rdqquo; mdash;Roger Kimball, author of Tenured Radicals: How Politics Has Politicized Our Higher Education and The Long March: How the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s Changed Americaldquo;Charlie Sykes'squo; A Nation of Moochers provides a much-needed wakeup call for a nation approaching two perilous tipping points: a moral one and a fiscal one.nbsp; With our country facing unprecedented challenges and stark political choices, principled leaders will benefit from Sykes'squo; clear vision, keen insight and intellect.nbsp; If wersquo;re serious about getting our nation back on track, then we would be wise to follow the lessons laid out in A Nation of Moochers.rdqquo; mdash;Paul Ryan, Member of Congressldquo;Brillianthellip; A nation of moochers really does encapsulate our problem about nbsp;a schizophrenic electorate that understands that there is no such thing as a free lunch, but still wants to get the free candy.rdqquo; mdash;Michelle Malkin