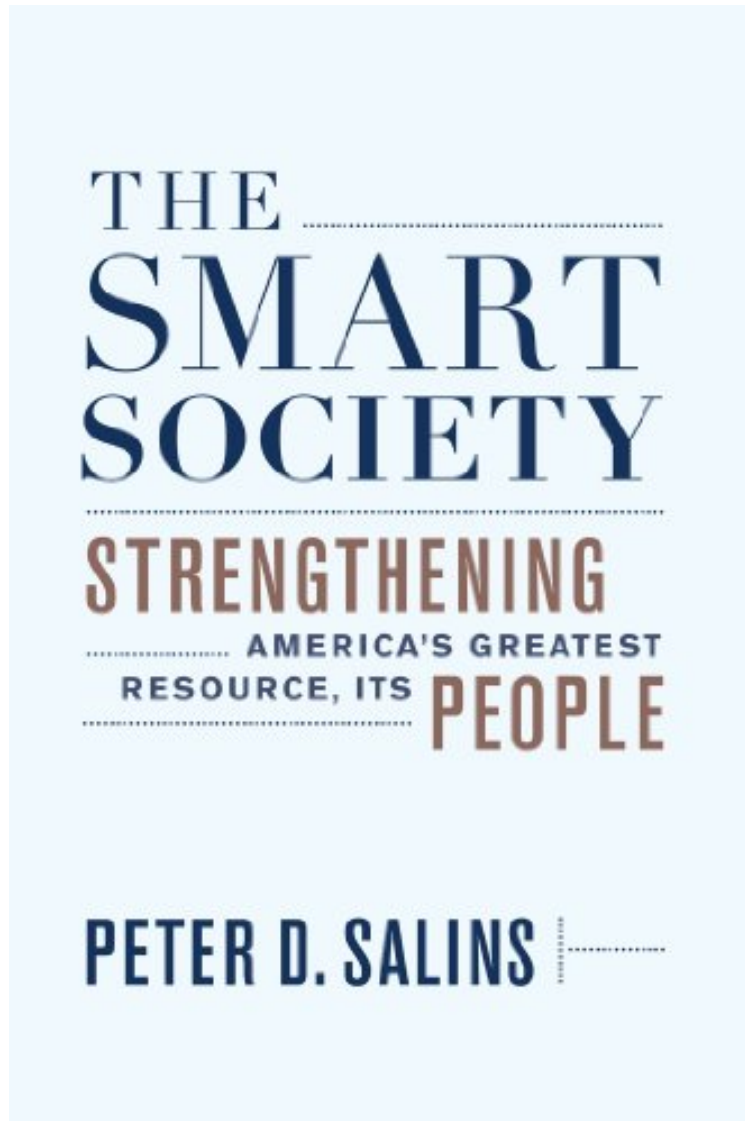


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The Smart Society: Strengthening America's Greatest Resource, Its People

Peter D. Salins

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A MUST READ By Reva H. Potter "The Smart Society" is a clear and well-written analysis of some of the most pressing problems facing our nation today. It not only defines the problems but offers clear, well-conceived blueprints for solving them. Peter Salins does not hesitate to challenge

conventional beliefs where necessary, and take positions that may not be considered popular or politically correct. His faith and confidence in the ability of our government, when programs are well-conceived, to make a positive difference in people's lives, is a welcome addition to current political discourse. Edward R. Potter, MAT, MUP1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Smart Society gives solutions, not invective, and counterpoints "Coming Apart" By Laura Positano The goal of the book is to recognize that the United States, for all its existence, has been the "world's most successful society" and that "the United States' strongest attribute is the capabilities of its people, what economists call human capital." There is thus a need to "revitalize" America's human capital or else risk shortchanging the future of the country.

The Smart Society offers a detailed blueprint for how the United States can recast its human capital policies to make all Americans—not just a privileged elite—smarter and more successful than ever before, at the same time stemming the size and cost of the nation's "safety net." The spectacular, centuries-long success of the United States is based on its having determined, early on, to be a smart country, single-mindedly developing institutions and practices that enabled its native born citizens to maximize their economic and social potential, and welcoming opportunity-seeking foreigners to join them. Over the last four decades, however, the vaunted United States human capital machine has been breaking down, dimming the economic and social prospects of millions of Americans. If The Smart Society blueprint is followed, these trends can be reversed and the nation and its people can quickly regain their preeminence in the hyper-competitive and globalized world of the 21st century. This is a most topical issue today because the country's current heated political disagreements are not just about the proper size of government, but about how the United States can reverse its apparent decline and restore its historic economic and social vigor—in other words, regain its place as the world's "smartest" nation.

About the Author Peter D. Salins is University Professor of Political Science at Stony Brook University and director of its graduate program in public policy. As a nationally recognized scholar whose work has focused on key public policy issues, his articles have appeared in a wide variety of newspapers, periodicals, and scholarly journals, including Commentary, Reason, The New York Times Magazine, The Public Interest, The New Republic, and City Journal.