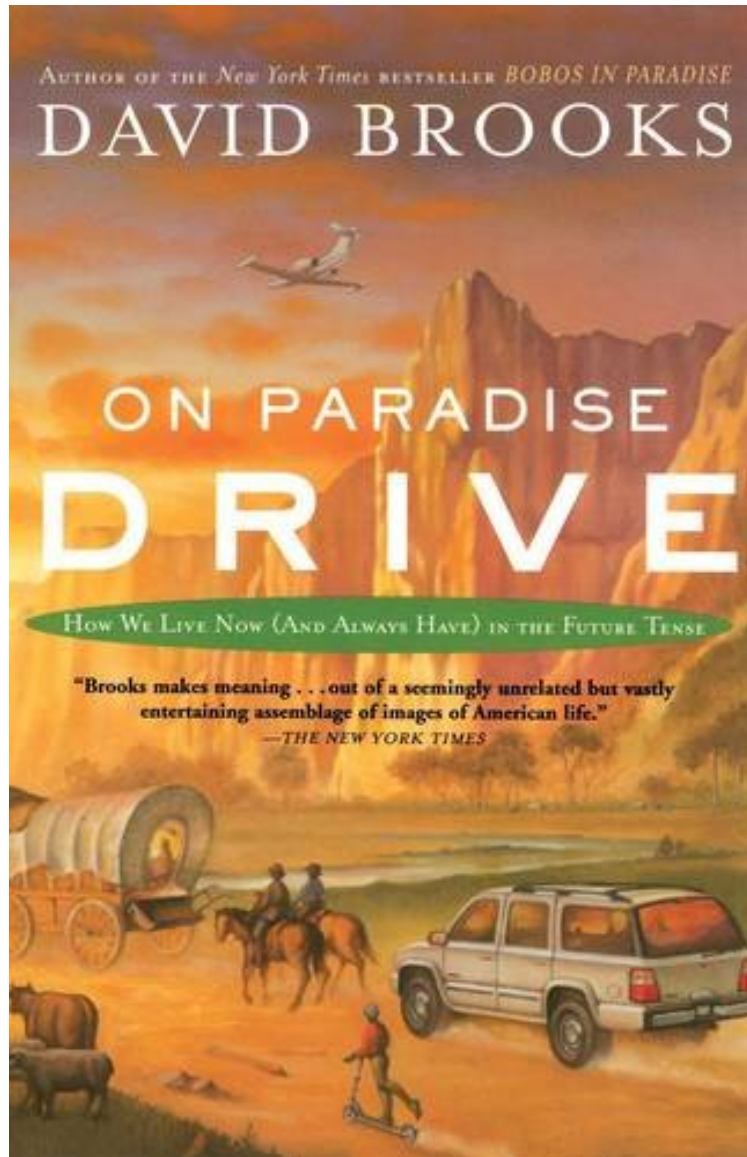


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# On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense

David Brooks

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#401515 in Books David Brooks 2005-06-02 2005-06-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.44 x 1.10 x 5.50l, .64 #File Name: 0743227395320 pagesOn Paradise Drive How We Live Now And Always Have in the Future Tense | File size: 58.Mb

**David Brooks : On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (And Always Have) in the Future Tense:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. He begins Paradise Drive with what seems like a very superficial look at American culture through the ...By dennystorerDavid Brooks has a keen eye for what motivates this social experiment we call America. He begins Paradise Drive with what seems like a very superficial look at American culture through the lens of residential patterns and how they are differentiated from each other. But this is a segue to a far deeper inquiry into the American psyche and like all his books is well worth the time and effort...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for a look at "BoBos" in the USBy stevenDavid Brooks' dead accurate look at the American over class..almost new, Thanks!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read.By Linda J. ChapmanDavid Brooks is a VERY interesting individual. I have watched him on PBS, in person when he speaks in Santa Barbara, and then read this book. He has humor and perspective. Good read.

Take a look at Americans in their natural habitat: guys shopping for barbecue grills, doing that special walk men do when in the presence of lumber; superefficient soccer Ubermoms who chair school auctions, organize PTAs, and weigh less than their kids; and suburban chain restaurants, which if they merged would be called Chili's Olive Garden Hard Rock Outback Cantina. Are we as shallow as we look? Many around the world see us as the great bimbos. Sure, Americans work hard and are energetic, but that is because we are money-hungry and don't know how to relax. But if you probe deeper, you find that we behave the way we do because we live under the spell of paradise. We are the inheritors of a sense of limitless possibilities, raised to think in the future tense and to strive toward the happiness we naturally accept. On Paradise Drive, at once serious and comic, describes this distinct American future-mindedness that shapes our personalities and underlies our beliefs.

From Publishers WeeklyFor readers who are feeling glum about America and its place in the world, or those who despairingly look at our culture's cookie cutter, strip mall consumerism and flash-bang glitter, Brooks (Bobos in Paradise) offers a balm with his latest pseudo-sociological treatise. More a way to look at what he sees as America's problems (e.g., our thirst for enormous gas guzzlers and super-sized soft drinks) with optimism than a series of suggestions of how to fix them, this book by the New York Times op-ed columnist tells readers it's okay to consume, consume, consume--so long as they look toward the future while doing so. At times playful and sarcastic (though less funny than intended), the book jumps from statistical analysis to cultural observation to defense of Bush's foreign policy, all without much of a mooring in essential context or factual citation. This is deceptive optimism; one long essay insisting our society's problems are not so big, provided we talk about them in the right way. While engagingly written and insightful at points, Brooks's affirmation is unlikely to resound with anyone outside the conservative choir, and even less likely to spark change--or even a desire for change. Still, it's nice to feel loved--if not by the rest of the world, than at least by this author. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Bookmarks MagazineWoe the conservative who finds favor with the liberal press. After his breakthrough turn in Bobos in Paradise, Brooks, a New York Times op-ed columnist, was the rare elephant in the living room that the Blue states could cuddle up to. While none of the criticism seems overtly motivated by politics, there is a tone of disappointment in most of the reviews. Brooks still has a way with his well-honed cultural skewer, although a tendency towards generalizations bothers many critics. The loudest grumbles are provoked by Brookss incessant need to go for the easy joke, many of which just arent funny. More importantly, critics raise questions about the relevance of his argument. It seems, for the moment, the zeitgeist has Mr. Brooks in its rear-view mirror.Copyriht 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc.From BooklistBrooks, whose Bobos in Paradise (2001) focused on America's upper class, continues his offbeat examination of modern culture by examining the middle class. Life in the middle isn't what it used to be, Brooks reports. Whereas the word suburb once conjured up images of bland homogeneity, it now means "lesbian dentists, Iranian McMansions, Korean megachurches, nuclear-free-zone subdevelopments, Orthodox shtetls with Hasidic families walking past strip malls on their way to Saturday-morning shul." Where we live, Brooks says, is no longer our destination; it's a "dot on the flowing plane of multidirectional movement." Today's middle class is constantly in motion, always looking forward, planning its future. As a satiric social commentator, Brooks is always looking for the humorous anomaly--there are more than 600 certified pet chiropractors in the U.S.--but along with exposing cultural absurdities, he offers acute observations on middle-class life, and he frequently takes us in previously unexplored philosophical directions. One way or the other, this book will give readers plenty of new things to think about. David PittCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved