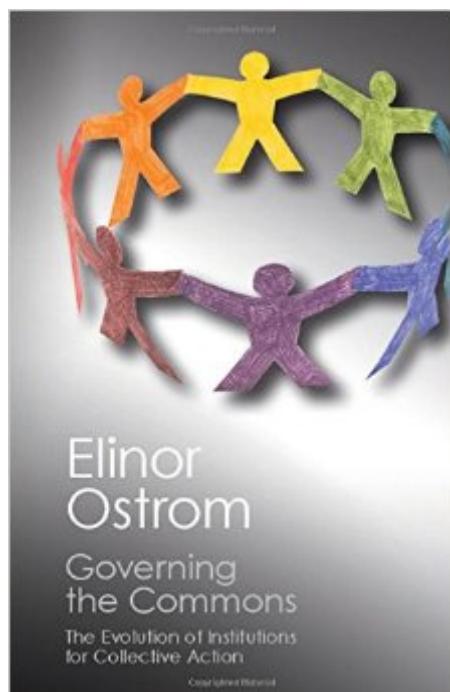


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Governing The Commons: The Evolution Of Institutions For Collective Action (Canto Classics)



Synopsis

The governance of natural resources used by many individuals in common is an issue of increasing concern to policy analysts. Both state control and privatization of resources have been advocated, but neither the state nor the market have been uniformly successful in solving common pool resource problems. After critiquing the foundations of policy analysis as applied to natural resources, Elinor Ostrom here provides a unique body of empirical data to explore conditions under which common pool resource problems have been satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily solved. Dr Ostrom uses institutional analysis to explore different ways - both successful and unsuccessful - of governing the commons. In contrast to the proposition of the 'tragedy of the commons' argument, common pool problems sometimes are solved by voluntary organizations rather than by a coercive state. Among the cases considered are communal tenure in meadows and forests, irrigation communities and other water rights, and fisheries.

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Customer Reviews

Governing the Commons is an excellent exploration of how people can work together to manage shared, limited resources. It is a bit of a heavy read, but I found it very worthwhile. One of its basic points is that the Garret Hardin "Tragedy of the Commons" idea is not inevitable. There are many examples of communities setting up stable, long term institutions for managing common resources such as water supplies, fisheries, and forests. Ostrom outlines the interaction between local private

initiatives, administrative organizations such as water districts, and legal frameworks provided by government. She also describes how favoritism, bribery, and corruption to thwart such efforts. A very good read for anyone thinking along the lines of "Think Global, Act Local."

good book

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