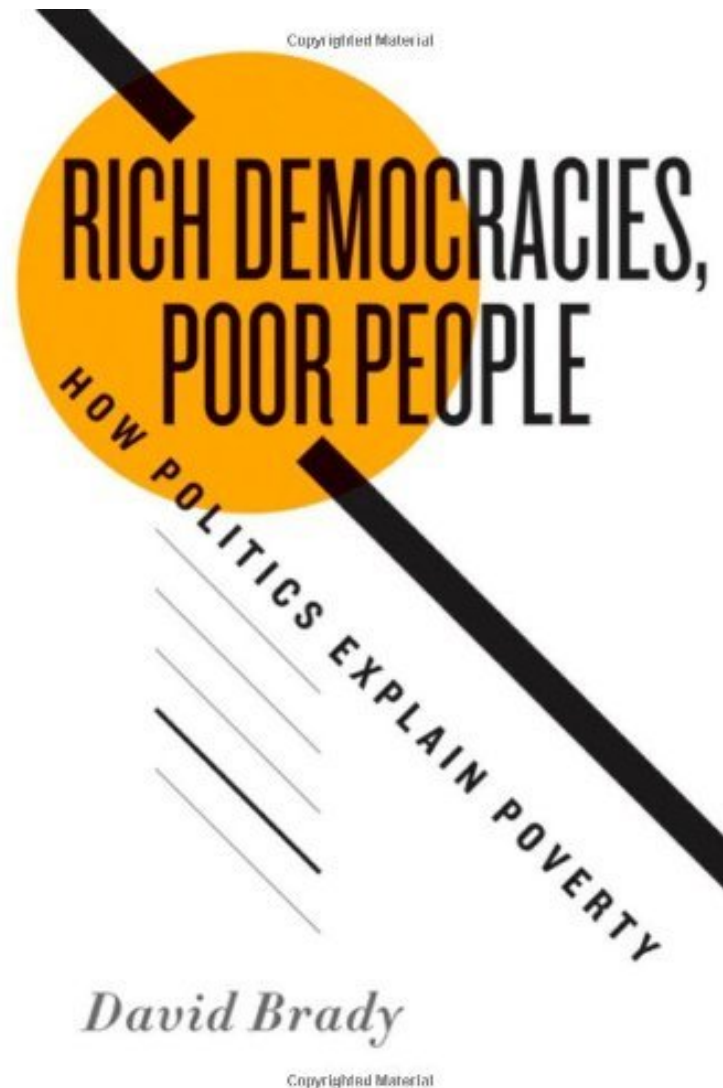


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Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty

David Brady

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David Brady : Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rich Democracies, Poor People: How Politics Explain Poverty:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and all these ingredients blend together beautifully in this book By Joshua Brady has expertise in sociology, political science and public policy, and all these ingredients blend together beautifully in this book. As his work often does, Brady's 'Rich Democracies, Poor People' provides a thorough, in-depth, political explanation for a social phenomenon from a macro, cross-national perspective. Of particular note is the second chapter on Brady's suggestions for revisions to the measurement of poverty--this is a must read for any social

scientist interested in poverty and cross-nationally comparative research. 0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. One of the worst things I've ever read! By sbc2556 This is one of most poorly-written books I've ever read in my life! The author does little to drive home the point of the thesis and relies too much on studies and other works to make what amounts to a luke-warm, passionless never ending bore! I selected this for my book club because I wanted to delve into the topic of poverty but ended up apologizing for subjecting them to such a poor work.

Poverty is not simply the result of an individual's characteristics, behaviors or abilities. Rather, as David Brady demonstrates, poverty is the result of politics. In *Rich Democracies, Poor People*, Brady investigates why poverty is so entrenched in some affluent democracies whereas it is a solvable problem in others. Drawing on over thirty years of data from eighteen countries, Brady argues that cross-national and historical variations in poverty are principally driven by differences in the generosity of the welfare state. An explicit challenge to mainstream views of poverty as an inescapable outcome of individual failings or a society's labor markets and demography, this book offers institutionalized power relations theory as an alternative explanation. The power of coalitions for egalitarianism, Leftist political groups and parties, and the social policies they are able to institutionalize shape the amount of poverty in society. Where poverty is low, equality has been institutionalized. Where poverty is widespread, exemplified by the U.S., there has been a failure to institutionalize equality. A comprehensive and state-of-the-art study, *Rich Democracies, Poor People* places the inherently political choices over resources and the political organization of states, markets, and societies at the center of the study of poverty and social inequality.