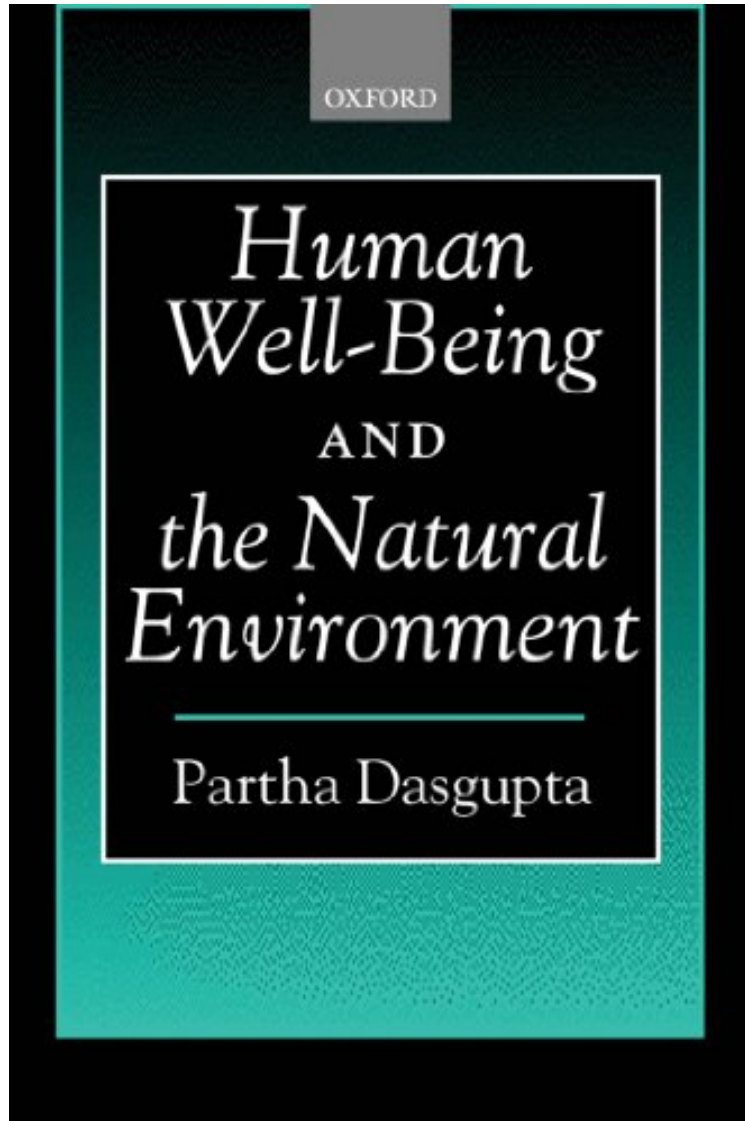


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Human Well-Being and the Natural Environment

Partha Dasgupta

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Partha Dasgupta : Human Well-Being and the Natural Environment before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Human Well-Being and the Natural Environment:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Economics and philosophy of people and their environment By Matthew Hendryx Dasgupta reviews and establishes the intellectual foundations for evaluating changes in the environment and the impact on human well-being. He has written extensively on this topic and this book synthesizes that research. He is particularly concerned with the natural resources available to a population. His argument is that as natural resources are depleted human welfare declines even if the day-to-day living of people has not changed. He provides the mathematical and philosophical basis of how to account for such changes. (The math is at a basic level

with a smattering of calculus.) Economists, policy-makers, political theorists, and philosophers are the intended audience, though it is so well written that layman could profitably read the work skipping the math. *Economics: A Very Short Introduction* (Very Short Introductions) An Inquiry into Well-Being and Destitution 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. top notch By systems student This is a book on economic theory, but if you don't like digesting the equations, the text explains the ideas well. The book is really thought-provoking and I think it will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the future of the human race. Dasgupta is an accomplished economic scholar and holds a high position in the English government. His logic is rigorous. In a way, this book reads more like a philosophy book, though. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very good book! By Carlos Orihuela This book is easy to understand. The language is very simple. This book contains the work of Partha Dasgupta and -mainly- Karl Goran Maler during years about several issues, as "genuine investment", "why the NNP is not a good measure to evaluate sustainability?", etc. It is a very good book to understand these issues (and others).

In *Human Well-Being and the Natural Environment*, Partha Dasgupta explores ways to measure the quality of life. In developing quality-of-life indices, he pays particular attention to the natural environment, illustrating how it can be incorporated, more generally, into economic reasoning in a seamless manner. Professor Dasgupta puts the theory that he develops to use in extended commentaries on the economics of population, poverty traps, global warming, structural adjustment programmes, and free trade, particularly in relation to poor countries. The result is a treatise that goes beyond quality-of-life measures and offers a comprehensive account of the newly emergent subject of ecological economics. With the publication of this new paperback edition, Professor Dasgupta has taken the opportunity to update and revise his text in a number of ways, including developments to facilitate its current use on a number of graduate courses in environmental and resource economics. The treatment of the welfare economics of imperfect economies has been developed using new findings, and the Appendix has been expanded to include applications of the theory to a number of institutions, and to develop approximate formulae for estimating the value of environmental natural resources.

From *Scientific American* Current measures of the quality of life are, by and large, insensitive to our dependence on the natural environment. Dasgupta, a distinguished professor of economics at the University of Cambridge, aims to remedy that. In a style that is both engaging and rational, he argues that the most valid measure of human well-being encompasses not only manufactured assets but also human capital (skills), knowledge (ideas) and the natural environment, which includes "minerals and fossil fuels, soils, fisheries, sources of water, forests and woodlands, watersheds, the oceans, places of beauty and tranquility, and the atmosphere." The sobering picture that emerges from this important book contrasts sharply with the one portrayed in most literature on economic development. *Human Well-Being* is intended both for scholars and for "the general citizen interested in what are among the deepest and most urgent social problems we face today. Editors of *Scientific American* "In a style that is both engaging and rational...the sobering picture that emerges from this important book contrasts sharply with the one portrayed in most literature on economic development. *Human Well-Being* is intended both for scholars and for 'the general citizen interested in what are among the deepest and most urgent social problems we face today.'" --*Scientific American* "Partha Dasgupta is a very highly regarded economic theorist, and his book shows why. Dasgupta writes more clearly and in a more accessible manner ... than most highly regarded economic theorists." --*Journal of Public Policy* "Reading this book is the equivalent of a crash course in political economy and moral philosophy. I wholeheartedly recommend it as one of the most important books of the new millennium." --Elinor Ostrom, Indiana University "Building on his classic magnum opus, *An Inquiry into Well-Being and Destitution* (1993), Partha Dasgupta has joined this rethink about the sustainability of development in an intellectually rich, thought-provoking and occasionally metaphysical work. His new book probes many issues beyond those that might be anticipated from the title and confirms his position as one of the most exciting economic thinkers today." --*The Times Higher Education Supplement* About the Author Partha Dasgupta is the Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. A Past President of the Royal Economic Society and of the European Economic Association, Professor Dasgupta is a Fellow of the British Academy, Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. His publications include *An Inquiry into Well-Being and Destitution* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1993).