

Satisfaction Not Guaranteed: Dilemmas of Progress in Modern Society

Peter N. Stearns

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#3055076 in Books Peter N Stearns 2012-04-30 2012-04-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .75 x 5.98l, 1.21 #File Name: 0814783627279 pagesSatisfaction Not Guaranteed Dilemmas of Progress in Modern Society | File size: 15.Mb

Peter N. Stearns : Satisfaction Not Guaranteed: Dilemmas of Progress in Modern Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Satisfaction Not Guaranteed: Dilemmas of Progress in Modern Society:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good content. Poor writingBy JuBillI bought this book looking for

specific content on the reasons for modernity's discontent. However, the author's writing style was so laborious that I finally gave up. Many times I found myself reading a sentence, one, two, or three times trying to derive his meaning and finally giving up. New York University Press dropped the ball. A good editor should have come to this author's aid. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating book! By Max I've been using this book to write my thesis (about the dangers of modernization), and it's really excellent! The book is fascinating, and includes many startling statistics. For example, you'll learn that as many as 25% of cases of "depression" may just be misdiagnosed sadness. You'll also learn that the United States has not seen an increase in (reported) happiness for over 50 years and this is true of most European countries. Dr. Stearns also challenges you to question assumptions about how "normal" modern life is; for example, the notion that all of our lives are prescheduled according to clock time, which is so anathema to our evolution. I highly recommend this book!

In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, modern urban, industrial, affluent societies have made great strides towards fixing some of the problems that plagued other societies for centuries: food shortages are nearly eliminated, infant and maternal mortality has fallen dramatically, birth control is both readily available and effective, education levels are higher, and internal violence is significantly reduced. Modernity's blessings are many and bountiful but has modernity really made us happy? *Satisfaction Not Guaranteed* is a book about the modern condition, and why the gains of living in modern urban, industrial, affluent societies have not proved more satisfying than they have. It examines why real results that paralleled earlier anticipations of progress have not generated the ease and contentment that the same forecasters assumed would apply to modern life. Employing his trademark inquiry of emotions in American history, Peter N. Stearns asks why, if modern life has been generally characterized by measurable themes of progress, abundance, and improvement, are people not happier or more content with their lot in life? Why is there an increased incidence of psychological depression, anxiety, and the sense that no one has ever reached a pinnacle of happiness or contentment? It's not so much that modernity went wrong, but rather that it has not gone as swimmingly as was anticipated. *Satisfaction Not Guaranteed* uses concrete examples from both history and the present, such as happiness surveys, to discuss how as a society we might better juggle the demands of modern life with the pursuit of happiness.