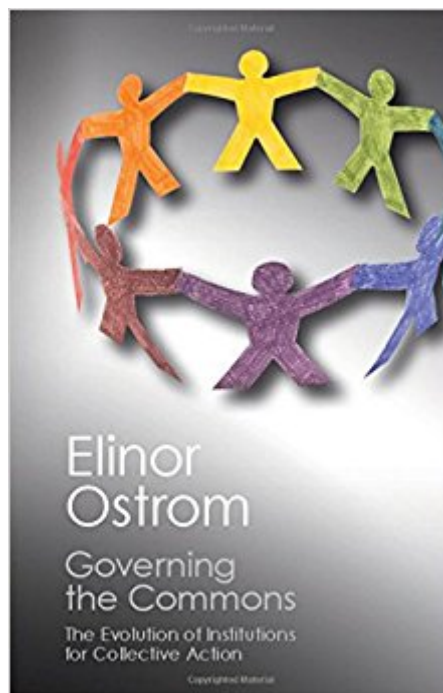


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Governing The Commons: The Evolution Of Institutions For Collective Action (Canto Classics)



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.

Book Information

Series: Canto Classics

Paperback: 294 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; Reissue edition (September 23, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1107569788

ISBN-13: 978-1107569782

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #38,710 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental](#) #54 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Political Economy](#) #66 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Economic Policy](#)

Customer Reviews

"In this ambitious, provocative, and very useful book, Ostrom combines a lucid theoretical framework with a series of diverse and richly detailed case studies ... she tightly reviews and critiques extant models of cooperation and collective action and argues powerfully that communities of actors are sometimes able to maintain a common resource for long periods of time without

outside intervention." Contemporary Sociology"Ostrom's book is an important contribution to the problems of common property resources, that is, the lack of well-defined property rights over a certain resource. Elinor Ostrom convincingly shows that there are many different viable mixtures between public and private, in particular self-organization and self-governance by the users of the common property resource. The book makes fascinating reading, particularly as it is well written." Bruno S. Frey, *Kyklos*"Students of common property resource regimes will find much of great interest in the volume." Barry C. Field, *Land Economics*"A classic by one of the best-known thinkers on communities and commons." Yes! *A Journal of Positive Futures*"... timely, well-written, and a useful addition to our understanding of the challenges of natural resource management ... useful for undergraduate and graduate students as well as field practitioners interested in the development of scientifically based research. It provides a firm grounding in the theoretical underpinnings that should guide empirical investigations ... Ostrom offers a unique source of information on the realities of resource management institutions coupled with the challenge for continued examination of institutions on order to develop better ways to address the CPR challenge." Gordon L. Brady, *Southern Economic Journal*"This is the most influential book in the last decade on thinking about the commons. For those involved with small communities ... located in one nation, whose lives depend on a common pool of renewable resources ... *Governing the Commons* has been the intellectual field guide." *Whole Earth*

The governance of natural resources used by many individuals in common is an issue of increasing concern to policy analysts. Elinor Ostrom provides a unique body of empirical data to explore conditions under which common pool resource problems have been satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily solved.

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."

In this remarkable book, the author presents detailed case studies and a theoretical framework for how communities can manage common resources. She literally provides the counter argument to the tragedy of the commons. Some of the examples she describes are shared resources that have been successfully managed by the people using them for thousands of years! This is a must read for anyone seeking knowledge about how to create durable institutions that can help us preserve valuable natural resources while benefiting from them economically at the same time.

Interesting but too academic. One of those books that are a compilation of papers

A classic.

good book

This book documents what it takes to save the natural resources on this planet, nothing less.

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