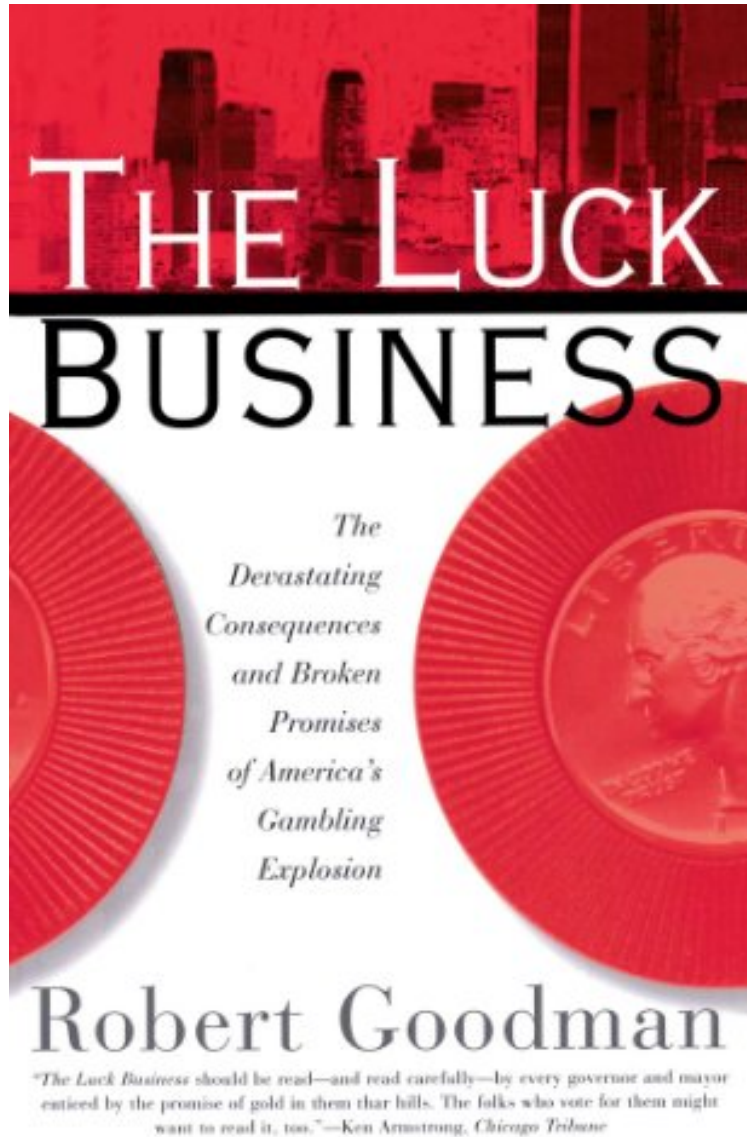


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## The Luck Business

Robert Goodman

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#3917829 in Books Touchstone 1996-11-06 1996-11-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x .80 x 5.50l, .58 #File Name: 0684831821288 pages | File size: 69.Mb

**Robert Goodman : The Luck Business** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Luck Business:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A gift purchase for my wifeBy F. CreanMy wife mentioned this book in passing. I found it and ordered it for her as a surprise. She loves it11 of 12 people found the following review

helpful. Must reading for gamblers  
By Emerging Issues Class, Faith United Methodist Church  
This book should be read by anyone who gambles, particularly those who may be attracted to gambling by the ever-increasing opportunities. Professor Goodman has amassed documentary and anecdotal evidence about the true cost to society of gambling activities. His conclusions are in step with those of several unbiased academic researchers as published in peer-reviewed journals, e.g. J. W. Kindt, "Follow the Money: Gambling, Ethics, and Subpoenas," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, Vol. 556, March 1998. Readers are provided corroborating evidence through hundreds of notes encompassing 27 of the 273 pages of the book. Opportunities for additional reading are also presented in a 30-page bibliography. Some readers may be disappointed that Goodman emphasizes economic analysis without presenting many questions about the morality of gambling. However, moral issues are raised in the statistics about the number of addicted and problem gamblers and the portion of these gamblers who resort to crime to finance their addiction. Particularly revealing is the research that establishes that most of gambling-induced crime is committed by persons with no prior criminal record. The author also raises questions about the ethics of the activities of government in encouraging citizens to gamble. All in all, Professor Goodman finds flaws in the arguments that have been used to promote gambling and provides credible sources for his conclusions.  
7 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Anti-Gambling ; Good Journalism, but Unbalanced Research  
By A Customer  
Mr. Goodman and his coauthor have taken the ills of the gambling industry and provided a snapshot-like, journalistic and moralistic view of the problems. The authors never address the other side of the story about this industry; the job and business formation, the enjoyment the majority of the gaming public gets from gambling, and the considerable revenues that state and local governments receive from taxation and the distribution of employee's income. There are no researchers who rigorously study gambling and risk-taking who support the unbalanced approach that Mr. Goodman has taken in the book. To further clarify the situation, Mr. Goodman has never tried to published a study or paper in this area that would be reviewed by experts in the field. In short, the book is good journalism but unbalanced and shoddy research. This is great stuff for further inflaming the passion of the anti-gambling public and for sound bites, but it is not to be used for policy preparation/analysis or for a general understanding of the topic.

In this damning indictment of legalized gambling, Goodman documents how this business, which generates more than \$40 billion dollars a year in revenues, is also the cause of myriad economic and social problems for the very communities that have looked to it as a panacea.

From Publishers Weekly  
Americans legally gambled almost \$400 billion in 1993, according to Goodman, who headed the United States Gambling Study of 1992-94. He asserts that the gambling industry produces no product and siphons off money not only from retail businesses but also from manufacturing. He claims that gambling interests have enlisted the support of governments by holding out false hopes to legislators and other officials eager to find new sources of income without raising taxes. These hopes convince voters that gambling is a major contributor to funds for the "four E's"—education, environment, the elderly and economic development—which, Goodman asserts, it is not. As governments seek to increase revenues, they have turned to "convenience gambling," installing slot machines in retail businesses, bars and restaurants. Believing it would be impractical to outlaw gambling altogether, Goodman (After the Planners) offers suggestions for a "rational gambling policy." But in answer to the question, does gambling as a strategy for economic development really work, he warns: don't bet on it. Author tour. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal  
Goodman, a Hampshire College professor and former director of the U.S. Gambling Study, strongly opposes current forms of legalized gambling in the United States. His unrelenting attack mode, vehemence, and outrage actually undermine the credibility of some solid facts drawn from his years of research. Chapter headings like "The Government as Predator" or the use of terms like siphon or cannibalize to describe the movement of discretionary spending from other businesses to gambling don't help. This is unfortunate because Goodman does present some good information. His even-handed chapter on "Tribal Gambling Enterprises," for example, admits that tribal economic conditions have improved via gambling. Still, his book leaves one asking why a local bakery, video shop, or candy store is a better place for one's entertainment money than a slot machine. Goodman shouldn't have brushed aside basic questions like "Why should government be involved in gambling?" or "Why is gambling a crime?" and he could have used fewer lurid anecdotes about gambling "addicts" turning to crime and violence. Still, for gambling opponents, his book supplies great rhetoric and good ammunition. Those like me who enjoy a night at the machines in Vegas, Atlantic City, or the local reservation will feel like part of the problem when they read it. Recommended as a useful, if overzealous, contribution to the debate.  
?John Berry, "Library Journal"  
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