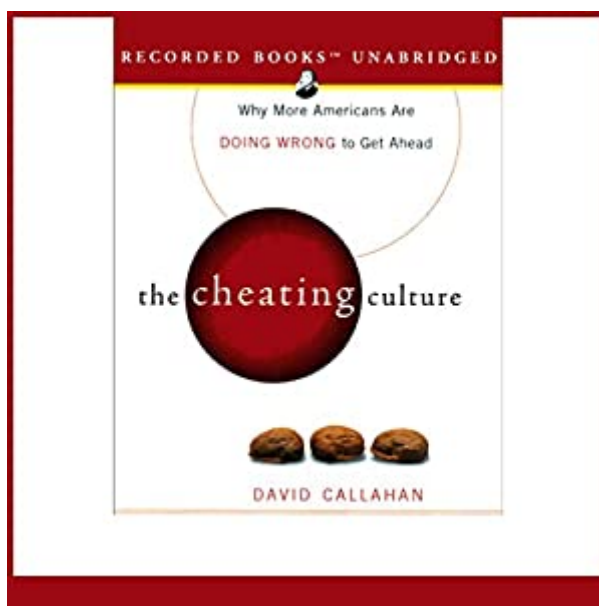


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# The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans Are Doing Wrong To Get Ahead



## Synopsis

You're standing at an ATM. It can't access account information but allows unlimited withdrawals. Do you take more than your balance? David Callahan thinks most of us would. While there have always been those who cut corners, he shows that cheating on every level—from the highly publicized corporate scandals to Little League fraud—has risen dramatically in the last two decades. Why all the cheating? Why now? Callahan pins the blame on the dog-eat-dog economic climate of the past two decades. An unfettered market and unprecedented economic inequality have corroded our values, he argues—and ultimately threaten the level playing field so central to American democracy itself. Through revealing interviews and extensive data, he takes us on a gripping tour of cheating in America and offers a powerful argument for why it matters. Lucidly written, scrupulously argued, *The Cheating Culture* is an important, original examination of the hidden costs of the boom years.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I see in the news today that the former CEO of Countrywide Financial Corporation settled with the SEC and will pay sixty-seven and a half million while admitting no wrongdoing. Having just finished *The Cheating Culture* last night, I view this settlement as would David Callahan, the author. This former CEO sold one hundred and forty million in Countrywide shares at an inflated price because he didn't disclose the default risks that he knew existed. The real point is that the former CEO made a killing and got away with more than fifty percent of his ill-gotten gains despite the record SEC settlement. It's like he and the SEC/government split the winnings almost 50-50. Too bad if you

believed the financial press and owned the shares! I remember all the good press Countrywide got in the financial media leading up to the blowup. This company was hyped by many well-known analysts and fund managers until the door slammed shut on the shareholders. The Cheating Culture explains in a way that anybody can understand how cheating often pays for the elites of our society and how this phenomenon influenced our whole culture. It's not just that the playing field is uneven; it is grossly so. By some uniquely American traits, our society apparently celebrates a winner no matter what was done to win. At the end of the book (I have the professionally narrated audiobook) the author gets to the core value system that is nearly unmentionable - Social Darwinism. This is the viewpoint used to justify social policies which show no sympathy for those unable to support themselves. I don't believe most wealthy people in the U.S. actually subscribe to the Social Darwinist viewpoint. Of course, unless you're wealthy and hang out almost exclusively with other wealthy individuals, you can't know how the top one percent thinks. About halfway through The Cheating Culture, I recognized this book as significant in the Declinism body of literature. I think this book explains Declinism from a moral standpoint. Clearly there has been moral slippage over many years in the conduct of business. Most of us are certainly not better off for it.

The author makes a more-or-less accurate description about modern American society. He has also clearly done his homework. My only concern is that the book gets a little dreary and repetitive in its assessment at times. Perhaps add a little more humor/color to a truly serious topic?

It is a great book, and I wrote about it for my English Summative Assessment. Overall, it is a very interesting book, and it gives examples of people exploiting loopholes in our American system.

After graduating in NYC with my MBA in 2008 right into the recession I have attended too many talks by Nobel price laureates discussing the recession from every angle possible and recounting all the details how it happened. This book however brilliantly captures the spirit of how we got to this crisis! What is amazing this book was written after the .com bust but it is remarkably apt description of the forces that led us to 2008! This is a must read to understand what has happened and to understand the full human cost of free market economy.

Very interesting read. Really makes you think differently about some things.

This book came in a pretty good time for me to need it for class. I was so interested and amazed at

how much cheating and dishonesty there has been and how people still do it to get ahead.

Remember people...you lied about how you've got there. So amazed but disappointed with the human race and all the dishonesty.

Excellent book. Something needs to be done.

Thank you!

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