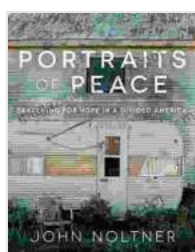


Searching for Hope in Divided America



Portraits of Peace: Searching for Hope in a Divided America by John Noltner

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2840 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 201 pages

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America is a nation divided. We are divided by race, by religion, by politics, and by economics. These divisions have led to a loss of trust and a breakdown in civil discourse. In his new book, *Searching for Hope in Divided America*, Robert Putnam argues that we must find common ground and work together to build a more just and equitable nation.

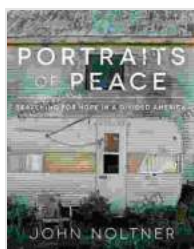
Putnam is a professor of public policy at Harvard University and the author of several bestselling books, including *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. In *Searching for Hope*, Putnam draws on his extensive research to show how the forces of division have been growing in America for decades. He argues that these forces are not simply the result of political polarization, but are also rooted in social and economic changes that have made it more difficult for Americans to connect with one another.

One of the most important changes Putnam identifies is the decline of social capital. Social capital refers to the networks of relationships and trust that connect people to one another. Putnam argues that social capital is essential for a healthy democracy, as it allows people to work together to solve common problems. However, in recent decades, social capital has been declining in America. This is due in part to the rise of social media, which has made it easier for people to connect with others who share their views, but more difficult to connect with those who do not.

Another factor that has contributed to the decline of social capital is the increasing economic inequality in America. Putnam argues that economic inequality makes it more difficult for people to trust one another, as they feel that the system is rigged against them. This distrust can lead to social isolation and a breakdown in civil discourse.

Putnam does not believe that America is doomed to division. He argues that we can still find common ground and work together to build a more just and equitable nation. However, he believes that it will require a concerted effort from all Americans. We must be willing to listen to each other, to compromise, and to work together for the common good.

Searching for Hope in Divided America is a timely and important book. It offers a clear-eyed assessment of the challenges facing our nation, but it also provides a path forward. Putnam's book is a must-read for anyone who is concerned about the future of America.



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