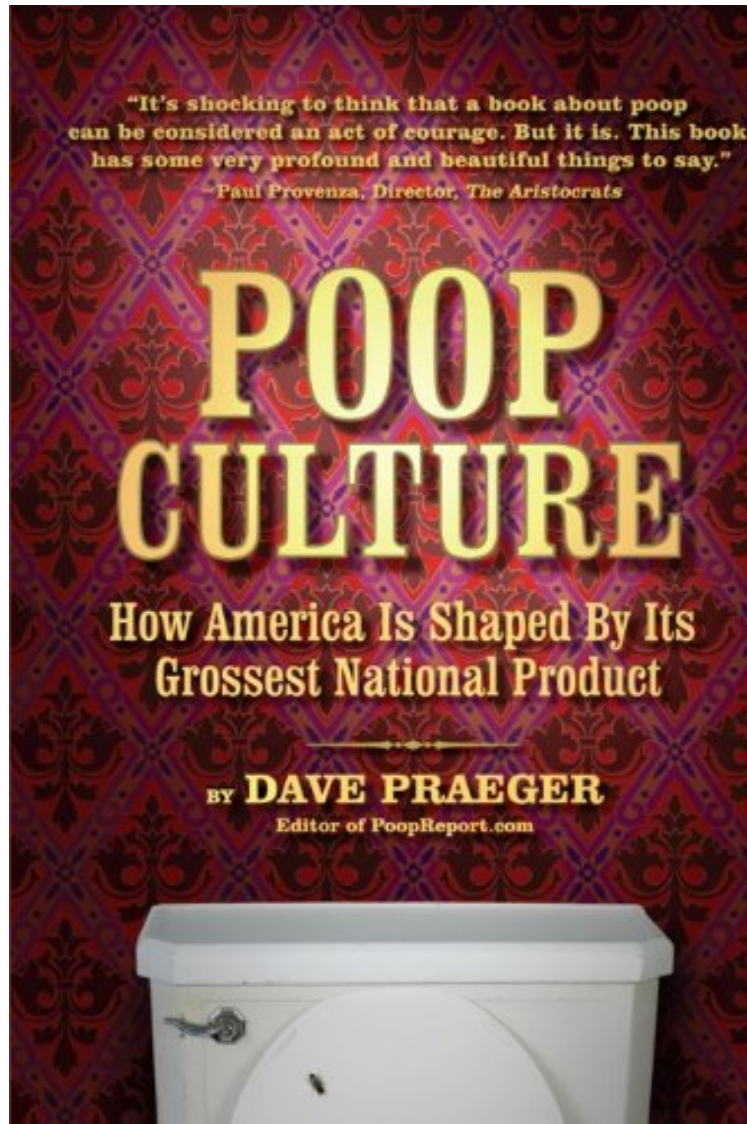


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Poop Culture: How America Is Shaped by Its Grossest National Product

Dave Praeger

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Dave Praeger : Poop Culture: How America Is Shaped by Its Grossest National Product before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Poop Culture: How America Is Shaped by Its Grossest National Product:

33 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Probably only interesting to people who poopBy D. GerlingPoop Culture is an excellent book about a topic that is largely (and unfairly) ignored.Perhaps the greatest asset and the

greatest weakness of the book is its breadth. The author covers many different approaches to the topic--from the psycho-social elements of poop (i.e. shame) to the history of the toilet to cultural symbolism to poop in art to the economic/ecologic effects of the way we as a society deal with our poop. It's at once odd and heartwarming to see a diagram of the best way to poop (squatting) or talk of South Park in the same book that also contains theoretical musings on Jonathan Swift and Marcel Duchamp. Underneath the entertaining history and stories about poop there exist some fundamental and very important issues. For example, our culture's shame of defecation translates into a rather unhealthy and irrational way of dealing with poop on a practical level--as evidenced by our toilet and sewer design. Praeger provides some greener alternatives to the way things have been done in the past. In short, this is the first book on poop since Dominique Laporte's history of French shit that I would call top notch. It's got interesting history, it's accessible (though I could do without some of the puns), it's got great illustrations (especially in the chapter on scatological art), and it puts Martin Luther, Milan Kundera, Rabelais, Wim Delvoye, and Mr. Hankey in stimulating conversation with one another.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Poop Culture By H. NettlesOh, what can I say about Poop Culture? I LOVED reading this book! The authors writing style is humorous (but in a tactful, respectful way given the subject). The approach to writing about poop was handled in such a great way, it avoids all the pitfalls that come with the topic. No gross, sophomoric humor, but Dave Praeger also doesn't beat around the bush when talking about the actual mechanism of our alimentary canal. It is such a well written book. I especially love his insights on the psychology of pooping, and our attitudes through the ages towards this very unifying bodily function. I highly recommend this book. HIGHLY!

Holly N. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of few books on faces By Zbigniew Przedpelski I found a lot of information on subject with extensive reference list. Poop in arts, philosophy, religion, psychology, movies, social studies is not everyday reading therefore it was so interesting and funny to read this book. Fecal denial, contaminating power of poop, hygiene as a class differentiation and discussion on our way of wiping that's a span of this book. Book consist of many short parts with a lot of info in each. Sometimes it seems that it was written by more than one person. Anyway worth reading

Is The Origin of Feces a Darwinian concern? Perhaps not, but it is the title to the preface of this tongue-in-cheek and unexpectedly revealing exploration of human behavior by the webmaster behind the popular PoopReport.com. This book is not a history of poop, but a study of today. Its goal is to understand how poop affects us, how we view it, and why; to appreciate its impact from the moment it slides out of our anal sphincters to the moment it enters the sewage treatment plant; to explore how we've arrived at this strange discomfort and confusion about a natural product of our bodies; to see how this contradiction the natural as unnatural shapes our minds, relationships, environment, culture, economics, media, and art. Paul Provenza, the director of *The Aristocrats*, says in his foreword: Its shocking to think that a book about poop can be considered an act of courage. But it is. Most of us have knee-jerk responses to the topic that we are not even aware of. Attitudes that, like the awful stench of poop itself, permeate all of society and culture. This book has some very profound and beautiful things to say. It takes a dirty, smelly, unpleasant subject like shit and brings forth ideas that are empowering, dignifying and life affirming.

From Publishers Weekly The mastermind behind poopreport.com, first-time author Praeger takes a scatological and sociological look at what we so thoughtlessly leave behind. As the title might suggest, Praeger isn't one to mince words (his tone is captured well in the opening line, "With enviable ease, poop slid out of the mechanical anus and onto the conveyor belt below"), but neither does he let the subject matter devolve to sophomoric humor. Instead, Praeger meticulously excavates the politics of poop, societal attitudes toward it and how both affect our culture and everyday lives. Propelled by a keen nose for trivia, Praeger chronicles everything from the rise in epidemics that led to better sanitation practices, culminating in the widespread adoption of the toilet, to the use of feces in art. Readers will also learn about the history of toilet paper, why toilets weren't commonplace in England until World War I and how to use a bidet properly. Happily, Praeger keeps things light but respectful throughout, even in a discussion of scatological satire; as such, his enlightening guide may very well represent the ultimate in bathroom reading material. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author Praeger is the webmaster of PoopReport.com. This is his first book. Provenza is the director of the 2005 hit movie, "The Aristocrats." He is also the director of the upcoming movie, "Everybody Poops," based on the famous Taro Gomi children's book.