



# Why Nothing Works: The Anthropology of Daily Life

*Marvin Harris*

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Examines the changes taking place in modern America, and discusses shoddy workmanship, poor service, inflation, crime, and religious cults.

## Why Nothing Works: The Anthropology of Daily Life Details

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### **Jose Manuel says**

Probablemente su visión haya sido superada por nuevas líneas de investigación antropológica, pero entiendo que Marvin Harris es un autor de obligada lectura para enterarse de algo de lo que significa ser humano.

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### **Anna says**

Mom's hardback copy of the original 1981 edition--America Now: The Anthropology of a Changing Culture. The new title comes from Chapter 1. I had taken a soc/anth class and was quite taken with Mr. Harris. I wonder what his views would be these days. I think we read another work of his for class or studied him in depth. It made a big impression. One of my favorite courses at DU.

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### **Lancer says**

Great book! Pissed me off about our culture. I learned many things. Everyone should read this book.

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### **Stevens Van says**

Too bad we didn't pay attention when this was first published.

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### **Peter Mcloughlin says**

A conservative jeremiad like this can't be written like this today. Liberals have more data and a better grasp on things today and conservatives don't do intellectual stuff anymore (the ability to dissemble has atrophied now that they have their own media silos and a hermetically sealed audience.) This book is from a bygone era when conservatives actually tried to convince people with somewhat intellectual arguments. It reads like a Heritage Foundation or American Enterprise Institute piece from the era. The problems in its focus were addressed ad nauseam by Republican politicians and sometimes even Democrats (I am looking at you Bubba.) Needless to say, all the policies implemented from the Reagan era on that this book seems to yearn for have come to fruition with the bitter fruits of destroying unions, hollowing out the middle class and creating record inequality, the mass incarceration and private prisons, the dismantling of the safety net. On the social side of things look at the supreme court it will be working its black magic women's rights, gay rights, voting rights very soon if not already. This book seems quaint now the prose is relatively polite but Think Tank Intellectuals of that time had to be. See my updates for real-time reaction to this author.

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### **Jongu says**

Es interesante el punto de vista que muestra el señor Harris, aunque me ha parecido un poco prepotente. Una pena haberlo leído a prisa y corriendo para el examen. Ya sabéis, si se os rompe una lavadora u os llega mal una compra por internet es culpa de las mujeres trabajadoras, los negros y los gays.

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### **Don says**

Highly speculative, queer, yet fairly amusing -- probably inadvertently so. I was quite surprised to learn that the author of this odd book was a department chair at Columbia.

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### **Nacho.gb says**

the weaker boob by Marvin Harris, in my opinion. And, on the other hand, it interesting to understand the american 70's and hiperindustrialization, but the book is obsolete for the new information era.

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### **Ellen says**

An interesting book, a little out of date, but still makes some good points

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### **Nicklas Karlsson says**

Although I don't share much of Harris previous theoretical or methodological work in Anthropology this book is quite interesting even for the present.

The topics discussed are long altered from todays world but the way Harris holistically analyze societal ills is fundamentally lacking in todays discourse, I think.

I would love to see a book like this but current issues!

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