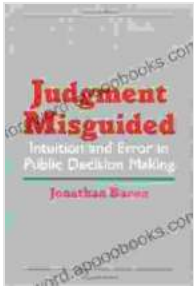


Intuition and Error in Public Decision Making: A Comprehensive Guide



Judgment Misguided: Intuition and Error in Public Decision Making by Jonathan Baron

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2490 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 240 pages

Lending : Enabled



Public decision making is a complex and challenging process that involves a multitude of factors, including intuition, error, and rational analysis. While intuition can provide valuable insights and lead to effective outcomes, it can also be susceptible to biases and errors that can undermine decision quality.

Cognitive Biases in Public Decision Making

Cognitive biases are systematic errors in thinking that can lead to irrational or suboptimal decisions. These biases are often the result of heuristics, or mental shortcuts, that our brains use to make decisions quickly and efficiently.

Some of the most common cognitive biases that affect public decision making include:

- **Confirmation bias:** The tendency to seek out information that confirms our existing beliefs and to ignore or discount information that contradicts them.
- **Hindsight bias:** The tendency to believe that we could have predicted an event after it has already occurred.
- **Framing bias:** The tendency to make different decisions depending on how the information is presented.
- **Groupthink:** The tendency to conform to the opinions of the majority, even if we believe they are wrong.

Emotional Influences on Public Decision Making

Emotions also play a significant role in public decision making. While emotions can provide valuable information about our values and priorities, they can also lead to biased and impulsive judgments.

Some of the most common emotional influences on public decision making include:

- **Fear:** The fear of negative consequences can lead us to make decisions that are overly cautious or risk-averse.
- **Anger:** Anger can lead us to make decisions that are impulsive or aggressive.
- **Hope:** Hope can lead us to make decisions that are overly optimistic or unrealistic.
- **Guilt:** Guilt can lead us to make decisions that are designed to make amends for past mistakes or to avoid future guilt.

Structural Factors that Affect Public Decision Making

In addition to cognitive biases and emotional influences, structural factors can also affect public decision making. These factors include the institutional arrangements, the distribution of power, and the availability of information.

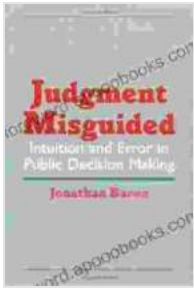
Some of the most common structural factors that affect public decision making include:

- **The institutional arrangements:** The institutional arrangements, such as the rules and procedures that govern decision making, can influence the quality of decisions.
- **The distribution of power:** The distribution of power, such as the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals or groups, can influence who makes decisions and how they are made.
- **The availability of information:** The availability of information, such as the quality and quantity of information that is available to decision makers, can influence the quality of decisions.

Strategies for Reducing Error in Public Decision Making

There are a number of strategies that can be used to reduce error in public decision making. These strategies include:

- **Be aware of your own biases:** The first step to reducing error in public decision making is to be aware of your own biases. Once you are aware of your biases, you can take steps to mitigate their effects.
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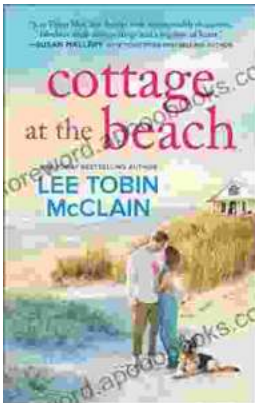
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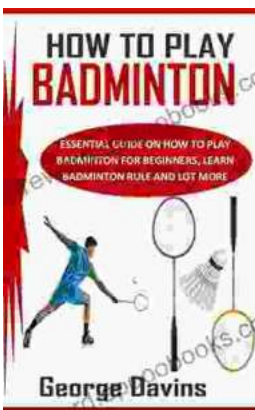
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