



another of his proposals, making higher education more accessible (albeit a laudable goal), would erode cheating – after reading his accounts of high school students’ cheating to gain access to elite colleges and of college students’ cheating to secure top jobs or spots in prestigious graduate programs. Recognizing the difficulties of effecting change at the societal level, Callahan advises the reader to make a personal dent in the cheating culture by refraining from dishonesty and encouraging friends and family to follow suit. Yet, because the macro-level conditions his book illuminates make it disadvantageous to play fair, his individually-oriented instructions to “go ahead and be a chump” (p. 293) are unlikely to have a meaningful impact. After eight chapters raise the reader’s consciousness about the cheating culture, the ninth is discouraging and frustrating.

Nonetheless, *The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans Are Doing Wrong To Get Ahead* cannot be discarded simply because Callahan is unable to deliver a ready solution to the cultural woes he identifies and documents so ably. His data and arguments are compelling, and the very lack of a quick fix provides further evidence of the formidable, entrenched nature of the problem. The book is solid enough for a class in social stratification, yet the accessible writing style makes it suitable for a broader readership. Callahan provides much food for thought for social scientists, policy makers, and citizens

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<sup>1</sup> Kasser, T. (2002). *The high price of materialism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press; and  
Kasser, T., & Kanner, A.D. (Eds.). (2004). *Psychology and consumer culture: The struggle for a good life in a materialistic world*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.