

The book was found

# The Big Sort: Why The Clustering Of Like-Minded American Is Tearing Us Apart



## Synopsis

In 2004, journalist Bill Bishop coined the term "the big sort." Armed with startling new demographic data, he made national news in a series of articles showing how Americans have been sorting themselves into alarmingly homogeneous communities -- not by region or by state, but by city and even neighborhood. Over the past three decades, we have been choosing the neighborhood (and church and news show) compatible with our lifestyle and beliefs. The result is a country that has become so polarized, so ideologically inbred that people don't know and can't understand those who live a few miles away. How this came to be, and its dire implications for our country, is the subject of this ground-breaking work. In *The Big Sort*, Bishop has taken his analysis to a new level. He begins with stories about how we live today and then draws on history, economics and our changing political landscape to create one of the most compelling big-picture accounts of America in recent memory.

## Book Information

File Size: 2900 KB

Print Length: 396 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books; 1 edition (May 11, 2009)

Publication Date: May 11, 2009

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0077FAYES

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #65,725 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography #16 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Demography #18 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Practical Politics

## Customer Reviews

Now that Bill Clinton is using Bill Bishop's book "The Big Sort" as the basis for his current speeches,

I should finally post a review. I read this book as soon as it was published and liked it, but not being one who regularly picks up social science books on political culture I procrastinated. Now it's time, and here are a few observations. "The Big Sort" refers to the fact that lifestyle choices are leading like-minded folks to live together in communities where they feel comfortable and perhaps unchallenged. That has significant ramifications for our country's political and social development. To quote the book, "The lesson for politics and culture is pretty clear. It doesn't matter if you're a frat boy, a French high school student, a petty criminal, or a federal appeals court judge. Mixed company moderates; like-minded company polarizes. Heterogeneous communities restrain group excesses; homogeneous communities march toward extremes." The fact that Republican strategists understood this well before the Democrats is detailed in a discussion with Matthew Dowd, George Bush's pollster in the 2000 election and chief strategist for the Bush campaign in 2004. According to Bishop's account, Dowd understood that "American communities were 'becoming very homogeneous'. He believed that to a large degree, this clustering was defensive, the general reaction to a society, a country, and a world that were largely beyond an individual's control or understanding. For generations, people had used their clubs, their trust in a national government, and long-established religious denominations to make sense of the world. But those old institutions no longer provided a safe harbor.

The authors' thesis is intriguing. U.S. counties are becoming increasingly homogenous in their lifestyle and politics. As a result, they are becoming polarized. The authors state this phenomenon is more pronounced for Republican counties. They are concerned that our society has become increasingly fragmented with close by communities having radically different sets of values. The authors partly explain this clustering into homogenous communities over the past three decades resulting in polarizing differences between them. Their main supporting observation is that the % of voters in Presidential election from counties with a 20 percentage point differential (in either direction) in close elections has steadily increased over the past 30 years (from 26.8% in 1976 to 48.3% in 2004). They also rely on Alan Abramowitz work who observed the same phenomenon at the State level. In 1976, the average Presidential election margin in the States was 8.9 percentage points. In 2004, it was 14.8 percentage points. But, it is unclear if the latter just picked two points. That's because when you look at the standard deviation of the Democrat's % at the State level minus the nation's Democrat's % for each Presidential election over the same period, you get pretty much trendless results. If polarization had really increased, the standard deviation as defined over the period should have increased. The authors also observed that since the 70s, Democratic

counties share of the college educated and foreign-born citizens has risen. Meanwhile, Republicans gained shares of the Church going and white population. This demographic shift explains why Republican counties have become more polarized as they are more religious, less ethnically diverse, and less moderate in their views.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded American is Tearing Us Apart ACT LIKE A LADY, THINK LIKE A MAN:By Steve Harvey:Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment [Hardcover] 1st Edition Tearing A New One: The Ins and Outs of Surviving Colorectal Cancer The (sort of) Dark Mage (Waldo Rabbit Series Book 1) Dave Barry Slept Here: A Sort of History of the United States Tearing Down the Streets: Adventures in Urban Anarchy Pro SQL Server 2008 Failover Clustering (Expert's Voice in SQL Server) Linux Clustering: Building and Maintaining Linux Clusters Oracle Solaris and Veritas Cluster : An Easy-build Guide: A try-at-home, practical guide to implementing Oracle/Solaris and Veritas clustering using a desktop or laptop Coming Apart: Why Relationships End and How to Live Through the Ending of Yours Give Your Child the World: Raising Globally Minded Kids One Book at a Time From the Hips: A Comprehensive, Open-Minded, Uncensored, Totally Honest Guide to Pregnancy, Birth, and Becoming a Parent True Crime: The Worlds Weirdest And Most Vicious Killers Of All Time: True Crime Stories Of The Sick Minded Killers (Serial Killers True Crime Book 2) Double Minded Man: Spiritually Unstable Why Can't My Child Behave?: Why Can't She Cope? Why Can't He Learn? The Feingold Diet updated for today's busy families IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola The American Legal System and Civic Engagement: Why We All Should Think Like Lawyers Men on Strike: Why Men Are Boycotting Marriage, Fatherhood, and the American Dream - and Why It Matters Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart Builder Boards: How to Build the Take-Apart Playhouse

[Dmca](#)