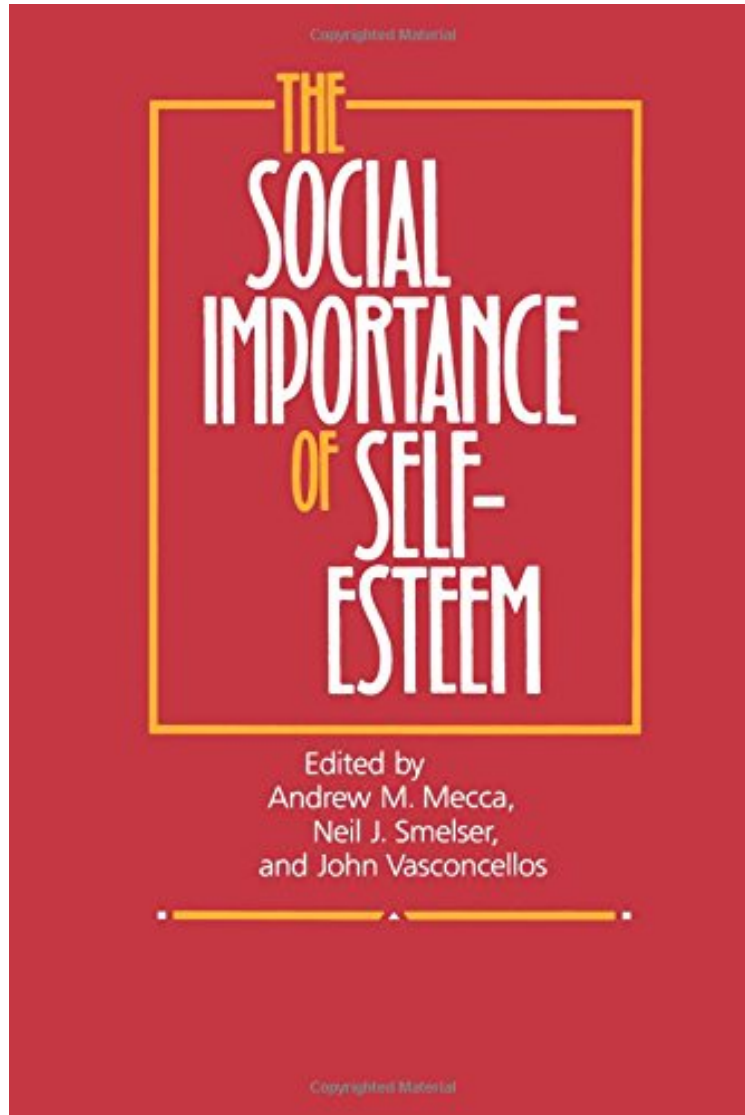


## The Social Importance of Self-Esteem

From Andrew Mecca

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#2729769 in Books Andrew Mecca 1989-08-15 1989-08-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.10 x .93 x 6.10l, 1.50 #File Name: 0520067096372 pages The Social Importance of Self Esteem | File size: 77.Mb

**From Andrew Mecca : The Social Importance of Self-Esteem** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Social Importance of Self-Esteem:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Pleased as punch. By Susan H. Kelly I received the book very quickly as I was using it for a paper I was writing in class. The description matched the content. Rate book and arrival as very high. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent literature review. But book should be titled: "The Social Unimportance of Self-esteem" By Published author I assigned this book for a course in human motivation. I assigned it to let students know that the common belief that self-esteem is at the root of many (if not all) social

problems (e.g., teenage pregnancy, drug use, gang membership, welfare, etc.) is NOT supported by empirical research. Each chapter is devoted to a specific social issue. The sheer number of studies that have been conducted to show that low self-esteem is at the root of individuals affected by these problems is quite large. The reader learns how the investigators defined the problem, how the data was collected, and the outcome of the research. The conclusion at the end of each chapter is the same: no evidence that self-esteem has anything to do with the problem. My only complaint about the book is that it is mis-titled. A more appropriate title would be "The Social Unimportance of Self-esteem." P.S. Nationally known psychologists, like Roy Baumeister, who once had been at the forefront of the "self-esteem movement," now concede that a much better bet for positive social outcomes is to help children, adolescents, and adults learn how to effectively self-regulate their behavior.

Is the well-being of a society dependent on the well-being of its citizenry? Does individual self-esteem play a causal role in chronic social problems such as child abuse, school drop-out rates, teenage pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, welfare dependency? In an attempt to answer these questions, the State of California established a task force on self-esteem and social responsibility in 1987. The aim of this body was to determine what connections might exist between these two factors and to suggest policy guidelines relating to the welfare of Californians and to the expenditure of public resources. The ten essays in this volume, prepared by faculty members of the University of California, draw on research in the social and behavioral sciences to explore these issues. They assess the substantive assertions and research findings in the field and make careful evaluations of their reliability and validity. In many cases strong connections between self-esteem and problematic behavior are established, in others the connections are weak, and in some the causal relationship is, as yet, imperfectly understood. One of the conclusions of the book is that research on these issues needs to be improved, particularly in the areas of comparative and longitudinal studies. Guidelines for future research are suggested, and some points of policy direction are elaborated. These essays may indeed promote additional research, for the premise that social stability and welfare are largely dependent on the psychological state of a people poses a challenging and provocative counter-emphasis to the assumption that social institutions are the primary determinants of individual welfare.

From the Back Cover Does the well-being of a society depend on the well-being of its citizenry? Does individual self-esteem play a causal role in chronic social problems such as child abuse, educational failure, teenage pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, welfare dependency, or crime and violence? In an attempt to answer these questions, the State of California established the Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility in 1986. This body was charged, in part, with compiling research on the connections that might exist between self-esteem and social problems and with suggesting policy guidelines relating to the welfare of Californians and the expenditure of public resources. About the Author Andrew Mecca is Executive Director of the California Health Research Foundation. Neil J. Smelser is University Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. John Vasconcellos is a California State Assemblyman.