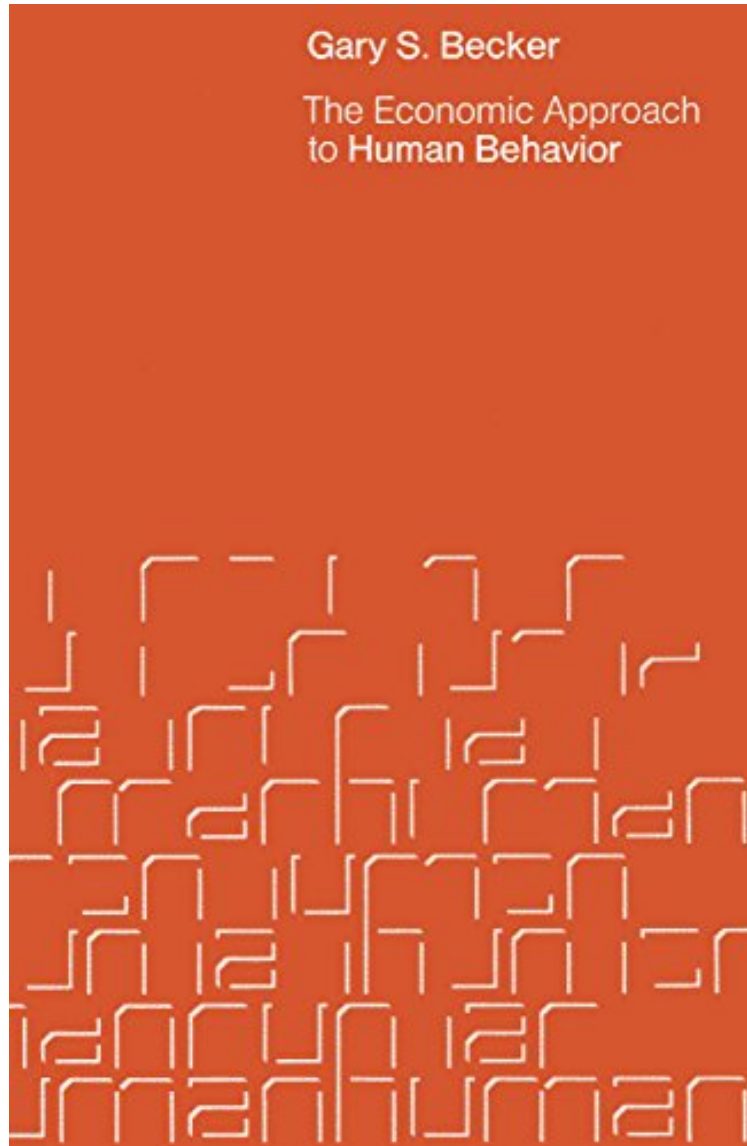


# The Economic Approach to Human Behavior

*Gary S. Becker*

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**Gary S. Becker : The Economic Approach to Human Behavior** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Economic Approach to Human Behavior:

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Since his pioneering application of economic analysis to racial discrimination, Gary S. Becker has shown that an economic approach can provide a unified framework for understanding all human behavior. In a highly readable selection of essays Becker applies this approach to various aspects of human activity, including social interactions; crime and punishment; marriage, fertility, and the family; and "irrational" behavior. "Becker's highly regarded work in economics is most notable in the imaginative application of 'the economic approach' to a surprising breadth of human activity. Becker's essays over the years have inevitably inspired a surge of research activity in testimony to the richness of his insights into human activities lying 'outside' the traditionally conceived economic markets. Perhaps no economist in our time has contributed more to expanding the area of interest to economists than Becker, and a number of these thought-provoking essays are collected in this book." —Choice Gary Becker was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Science in 1992.

About the Author Gary S. Becker (1930-2014) was University Professor at the University of Chicago with a joint appointment in both the economics and sociology departments. He was the author of many books, including *Human Capital: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis* and *The Economics of Discrimination*. He collaborated with Richard Posner on the Becker-Posner Blog, which formed the basis for their book *Uncommon Sense: Economic Insights, from Marriage to Terrorism*. Becker was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1992 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007.