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The Pity Party: A Mean-Spirited Diatribe Against Liberal Compassion

William Voegeli

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In the vein of Jonah Goldberg's *Liberal Fascism* comes a scathing and reasoned critique of the politics of liberal compassion—and why liberals' lack of interest in the results of their policies renders them unfit to govern.

For decades, conservatives have chafed at being called "heartless" and "uncaring" by liberals, without ever challenging this charge. Instead, they've spent their time trying to prove that they really do care. Now, political scientist William Voegeli turns the tables on this argument, making the case that "compassion" is neither the essence of personal virtue, nor the ultimate purpose of government.

Liberals have built a remarkable edifice of government programs that are justified by appeals to compassion. Yet as Voegeli shows, they are indifferent whether these programs fail or succeed. Instead, when the problems these programs are created to solve fail to disappear, they propose to fix underperforming programs with more money, or more programs. Meanwhile, conservatives who challenge their effectiveness on practical grounds are met with charges of being "heartless right wingers."

Voegeli explores various programs that have become battlefields between Conservatives fighting for more efficiency, and Liberals fighting for the status quo. Along the way, he explains the philosophical underpinnings of the Liberal project that created and reinforce this misapplied ideal of compassion, and why, without a major change, Liberals must be considered unfit to govern.

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