## The Uses of Pessimism: And the Danger of False Hope

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ROGER SCRUTON



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1 of 1 review helpful Buy Copies For All of Your Friends and Family By Richard B Schwartz The Uses of Pessimism is a wonderful little book one of Roger Scruton rsquo s best Its terms however are a tad imprecise He contrasts optimism with pessimism but then must add qualifying adjectives What he is actually talking about is the conflict between utopian leftism and worldly wise conservatism On the one hand we have Optimism is fundamental to the human spirit and has sparked innovation across the centuries but does it have a dark side Renowned philosopher and author Roger Scruton argues that unchecked optimism can be dangerous and that real happiness hinges on a healthy pessimism that recognizes the limitations of human beings The Uses of Pessimism is a far reaching yet concise assessment of how pessimism can compensate for the fallacies generic to the optimistic While some of Scruton s conclusions may be controversial he does present an intriguing case for using pessimism as a way to examine issues that affect current society His clear and accessible writing will appeal to those familiar with the author s past w

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