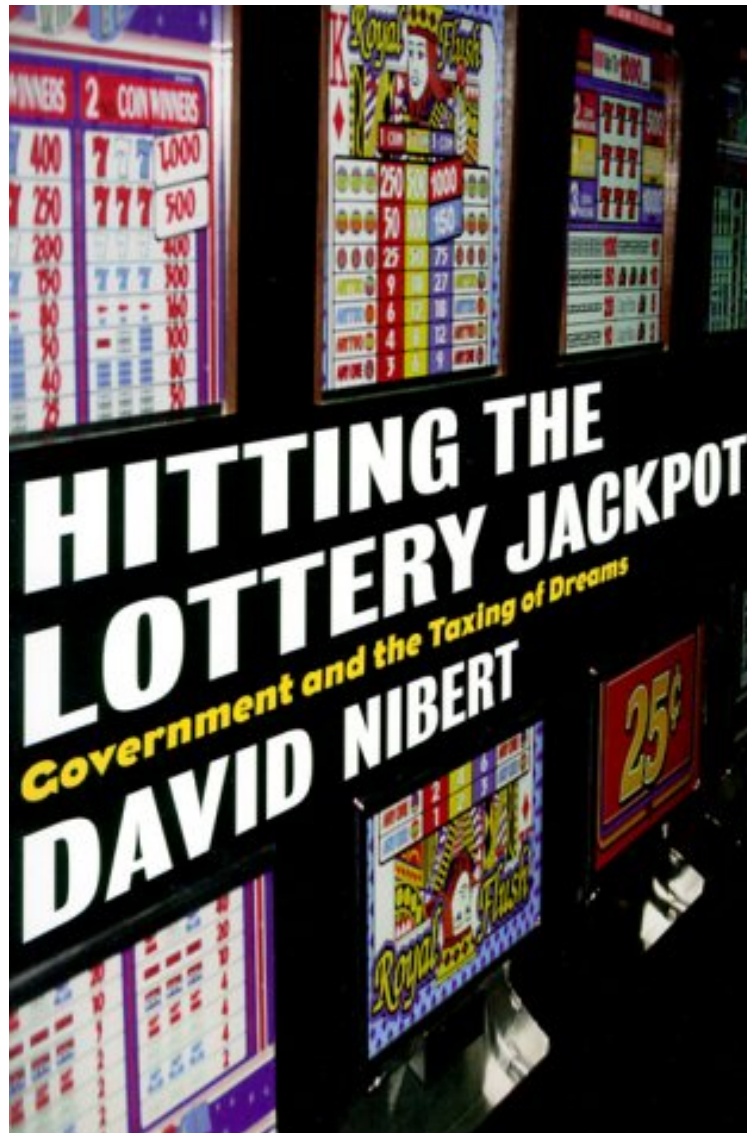


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Hitting the Lottery Jackpot: State Governments and the Taxing of Dreams

David Nibert

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David Nibert : Hitting the Lottery Jackpot: State Governments and the Taxing of Dreams before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitting the Lottery Jackpot: State Governments and the Taxing of Dreams:

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding contribution to Political Science studies. By Midwest Book Review Hitting The Lottery Jackpot: Government And The Taxing Of Dreams is a timely and

informative critique of the economic, social, and political costs of state reliance on lotteries to generate public revenues. David Nibert highlights the conflicting role of the state as a promoter of gambling to show who really profits from lottery gambling: advertising agencies, television stations, and ticket vendors. Less than half the money wagered is returned to participants as prizes. *Hitting The Lottery Jackpot* reveals the losers: lower-income groups, people of color. These are the segments of the general populace that spend a much higher percentage of their income on lotteries than others. Nibert also connects the rise of lottery legalization with economic stagnation in the 1970s, and explores the ideological dimensions of the lottery of "get-rich-quick individualism promoted among the very groups who would be better served in meeting their economic needs by political action and solidarity. *Hitting The Lottery Jackpot* is highly recommended reading for students of government, ethics, and political science.

When thirteen machine shop workers from Ohio won a \$295.7 million lotto jackpot, the largest ever, it made headlines. But the real story is that the lottery is a losing proposition for the vast majority who play it. *Hitting the Lottery Jackpot* provides the hard truth to the questions everybody asks: What are my chances of winning? Doesn't the money go to education? Isn't it harmless? This concise book explains who really profits from lotteries—advertising agencies, TV stations, and ticket vendors—and that shows only about half the money wagered is returned as prizes, the rest pocketed by state governments. *Hitting the Lottery Jackpot* also demonstrates who loses: lower-income groups and people of color, who spend a much higher percentage of their income on lotteries than others. David Nibert connects the rise of lotteries, illegal in every state before the 1960s, to the economic stagnation beginning in the 1970s, when budgetary crises prompted legislatures to seek new revenues. Difficult economic times produced uncertainty and anxiety for the working class, leading many poor and middle-income people, yearning for security, to throw away huge sums on lotteries they stand almost no chance of winning. Finally, Nibert explores the ideological dimensions of the lottery—the get-rich-quick individualism that they promote among the very groups who would be better served by political action and solidarity. *Hitting the Lottery Jackpot* is a powerful case for seeing lotteries as a pernicious government tax on the poor, seductively disguised as fun.

About the Author David Nibert is Associate Professor of Sociology at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and has published articles in *Critical Sociology*, *Race, Gender and Class*, and other publications.