The Character of Harms

How should we deal with societal ills such as crime, poverty, pollution, terrorism, and corruption? The Character of Harms argues that control or mitigation of “bad” things involves distinctive patterns of thought and action which turn out to be broadly applicable across a range of human endeavors, and which need to be better understood.

Malcolm Sparrow demonstrates that an explicit focus on the *bads*, rather than on the countervailing *goods* (safety, prosperity, environmental stewardship, etc.), can provide rich opportunities for surgically efficient and effective interventions – an operational approach which he terms “the sabotage of harms.” The book explores the institutional arrangements and decision-frameworks necessary to support this emerging operational model.

Written for reflective practitioners charged with risk-control responsibilities across the public, private, and non-governmental sectors, The Character of Harms makes a powerful case for a new approach to tackling the complex problems facing society.

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The Character of Harms

Operational Challenges in Control

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Acknowledgments

My greatest debt is to the many practitioners, mostly public servants, who grapple daily with the task of harm reduction and who have shared with me both their accomplishments and their frustrations. In executive classrooms and workshops around the world, and through a variety of other collaborative explorations, they have taught me over the last fifteen years all I know about this subject, and thoroughly tested (at times ruthlessly) the relevance and value of any generalizations I may have drawn from their experiences.

I am also indebted to a number of colleagues who have helped me broaden the claims in this book by welcoming and facilitating my interest in areas I knew little about, providing expert guidance to relevant literatures as well as candid assessments of prevailing research traditions within their own fields. On the subject of poverty reduction, particular thanks to Mary Jo Bane and Merilee Grindle; on corruption control, Agnes Batory; on human trafficking, the Carr Center for Human Rights at the John F. Kennedy School of Government; on terrorism control, Graham Allison and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, also at the Kennedy School. Thanks also to Tamar Miller for her encouragement to apply this analysis deliberately and energetically to the growing number of foundations, not-for-profit organizations, and international non-governmental organizations engaging in harm-mitigation projects of one kind or another; and for her expert and generous editorial advice.

I am also grateful to Amy Squires and Moira Smith for first rate research assistance, and to Chris Harrison (editor at Cambridge University Press) for his patience, support, and sage advice. Other colleagues have at various critical times, and probably without knowing it, spurred me on by reaffirming the value of this project. These include Mark Moore, John Braithwaite, Phil Heymann, Dutch Leonard, Allan Fels, David Ellwood, Tony Dean, Agnes Batory, David Herbster, Chris Daly, Chris Stone, and Jack Donahue.
Thanks also to my wife, Penny and daughter, Sophie, for their patience and support in dealing with me and my frustrations as I struggled, during the writing phase, to wrestle this amorphous abstraction into some tangible form.