Gambling and American Culture: A Discussion

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Gambling and the American Moral Landscape
Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life
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Observation 1

Gambling is a fundamental part of American culture, American public life, and the American moral landscape.
Legalized Gambling is Ubiquitous
Observation 2

Indian gaming is the most intensely scrutinized, and criticized, form of gambling in American culture.
States With Indian Gaming

The Simpsons
The Simpsons
South Park
The Family Guy
Observation 3

We still don’t know enough about gambling and its socioeconomic impacts—and, about Indian gaming, even less—to produce well-informed public discourse and sound public policy.

• “On examination, much of what Americans think they know about gambling turns out to be exaggerated or taken out of context. And much of the information in circulation is inaccurate or even false, although loudly voiced by adherents” (p. 1–6).

• “What is very clear is that there is still a dearth of impartial, objective research” (p. 8–1).
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