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**Sinopsis**

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Since his pioneering application of economic analysis to racial discrimination, Gary S. Becker has shown that an economic approach can provide a unified framework for understanding all human behavior. In a highly readable selection of essays Becker applies this approach to various aspects of human activity, including social interactions; crime and punishment; marriage, fertility, and the family; and "irrational" behavior.

"Becker's highly regarded work in economics is most notable in the imaginative application of 'the economic approach' to a surprising breadth of human activity. Becker's essays over the years have inevitably inspired a surge of research activity in testimony to the richness of his insights into human activities lying 'outside' the traditionally conceived economic markets.

Part 1. Introduction

1. The Economic Approach to Human Behavior

Part 2. Price and Prejudice

2. Effective Discrimination

Part 3. Law and Politics

3. Competition and Democracy

4. Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach

Part 4. Time and Household Production

5. A Theory of the Allocation of Time

6. The Allocation of Time and Goods over Time

7. On the New Theory of Consumer Behavior

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Part 5. Irrational Behavior

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