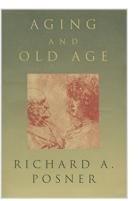
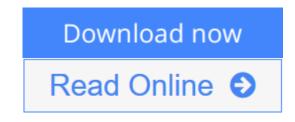
# Aging and Old Age



By Richard A. Posner



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Are the elderly posing a threat to America's political system with their enormous clout? Are they stretching resources to the breaking point with their growing demands for care? Distinguished economist and legal scholar Richard A. Posner explodes the myth that the United States could be on the brink of gerontological disaster.

*Aging and Old Age* offers fresh insight into a wide range of social and political issues relating to the elderly, such as health care, crime, social security, and discrimination. From the dread of death to the inordinate law-abidingness of the old, from their loquacity to their penny-pinching, Posner paints a surprisingly rich, revealing, and unsentimental portrait of the millions of elderly people in the United States. He explores issues such as age discrimination in employment, creativity and leadership as functions of age, and the changing social status of the elderly. Why are old people, presumably with less to lose, more unwilling to take risks than young people? Why don't the elderly in the United States command the respect and affection they once did and still do in other countries? How does aging affect driving and criminal records? And how does aging relate to creativity across different careers?

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### Aging and Old Age By Richard A. Posner Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2218319 in Books
- Published on: 1997-04-01
- Released on: 1997-04-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, 1.11 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

#### From Publishers Weekly

In a wide-angled, unsentimental, compelling look at old age, Posner, an economist and federal judge, punctures the widespread belief that the elderly constitute a selfish voting bloc and that the U.S. is becoming ominously gerontified. In his analysis, the alarmists have exaggerated the costs of an aging population and ignored the benefits, which include skills, experience, stabilizing maturity and worker loyalty. Posner's views are often iconoclastic, as when he asserts that old people are more self-centered than the young. He argues that physician-assisted suicide, if legalized for cases of terminally ill, pain-wracked or severely impaired people, might actually reduce the overall suicide rate among the elderly. He further maintains that legislation enacted in 1986 abolishing mandatory retirement at fixed ages in most occupations, harms elderly workers and perversely affects income distribution across the entire population. Posner investigates how economic factors influence a host of behaviors among the elderly, including creativity, automobile-driving habits, residence, voting and jury participation.

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#### From Library Journal

To some, the graying of American society is viewed as a threat to the country's social, political, and economic stability. Yet this book asserts that the cost of an aging society has been exaggerated and its benefits largely ignored. An economist and federal judge, Posner uses economic principles to create a framework for understanding the aging process and making policy decisions while exploring a variety of issues: why do older people commit fewer crimes, should there be a mandatory retirement age for judges, are older people more talkative, why do older people vote more than others? This learned work references the literature of gerontology, law, psychology, sociology, and biology, interspersed with observations on aging from Cicero, Shakespeare, William Butler Yeats, and Nietzsche. Some conclusions are obvious: older people are less likely to take financial risks. Others are more analytical: laws prohibiting age discrimination in employment probably do more harm than good to older workers. Overall the book is a creative way of looking at the challenges of an aging population. However, numerous footnotes and economic formulas limit the book's appeal. Recommended for collections strong on aging or economics.?Karen McNally Bensing, Benjamin Rose Inst. Lib., Cleveland

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#### From **Booklist**

Posner (*Sex and Reason*, 1992) delves into what it's like to be old in America but with a decidedly unique spin. Posner argues that "economics can do a better job of explaining the behavior and attitudes associated with aging" than any other discipline and follows through with his economic guidelines for policy decisions. As the American population continues to age, the young worry that the old may be taking too much out of the system through social security and medicare. Posner sifts through all the evidence and, using his economic analysis, concludes that although the elderly are benefiting from these entitlements, they are certainly not "ripping off" the young. Posner also tackles age discrimination, various scientific models of aging, assisted suicide, and many other issues that affect not only the elderly but the larger society. A balanced and reasoned inquiry. *Brian McCombie* 

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

#### **Andrew Evans:**

Book is actually written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A guide Aging and Old Age will make you to always be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that open or reading any book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suitable book with you?

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Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Aging and Old Age, you may enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

#### **Bruce Smith:**

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all this time you only find book that need more time to be read. Aging and Old Age can be your answer as it can be read by anyone who have those short time problems.

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That book can make you to feel relax. This kind of book Aging and Old Age was colorful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Aging and Old Age has many kinds or type. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. So, not at all of book usually are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading which.

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