Free To Choose Book Review

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I found Milton and Rose Friedman’s *Free to Choose* to be an approachable, no-nonsense window into the logical conclusion of the political views a free-market economist should align themselves with. A reality of economics is that crossing the bridge connecting economics to politics means crossing a pitted, unstable bridge which many amateur economists (including myself) are prone to falling from. While the Friedmans do an excellent job in their provisions of counterarguments, timely examples, and logical appeals, they fail when it comes to giving the reader ways to think critically or draw their own conclusions. Their many rhetorical questions are too condescending, almost as if the reader is engaging in a debate with a brick wall. Morally, I cannot stress enough how important I find it to consider the impact of Milton Friedman’s economics and politics on America in *any* discussion of his work however especially in discussion of *Free to Choose* which is the clearest example of Reaganomics attempting to appeal to a general population.

It would be unreasonable to claim that I disagree with all the Freidman’s views—or even a majority. The fact is, many are quite reasonable and it's not hard to justify idealized concepts in which the only losers are greedy members of the bureaucracy and everybody else wins. Of course, idealized scenarios are where economic justifications for political policy truly shine. In a perfect free market for example, yes, I do agree that unions would be unnecessary in the maintenance of a powerful, non-exploited workforce. I think that the same could be said about minimum wage laws: when observed through purely the laws of supply and demand as they apply to a market, they are clunky and