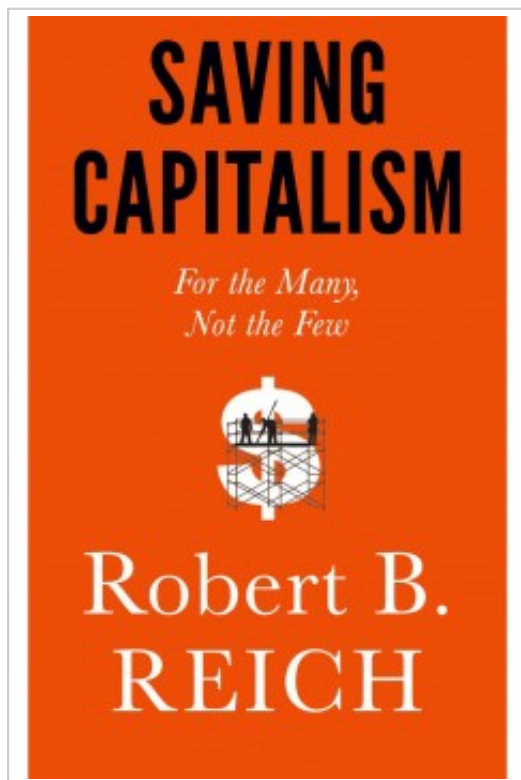


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Saving Capitalism

by Robert B. Reich

Price: \$26.95(Hardcover)

Published: September 29, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: From the author of Aftershock and The Work of Nations, his most important book to date—a myth-shattering breakdown of how the economic system that helped make America so strong is now failing us, and what it will take to fix it.

Perhaps no one is better acquainted with the intersection of economics and politics than Robert B. Reich, and now he reveals how power and influence have created a new American oligarchy, a shrinking middle class, and the greatest income inequality and wealth disparity in eighty years. He makes clear how centrally problematic our veneration of the “free market” is, and how it has masked the power of moneyed interests to tilt the market to their benefit.

Reich exposes the falsehoods that have been bolstered by the corruption of our democracy by huge corporations and the revolving door between Washington and Wall...

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What We Say

For the many people who have the inchoate sense that things aren't right, that the economy is out of whack and people are working harder but can't seem to get ahead or even stay in place but in fact are falling farther and farther behind...well, I've got a book for you. Robert Reich reframes the debate about inequality, making much of those who want to argue about how the free market is better than government regulation (or even how government needs to rein in the free market). Essentially, Reich makes the common sense but usually ignored point that there is NO SUCH THING as a free market. All economies operate on a set of rules that everyone agrees on and those rules simply must be tweaked and adjusted and updated or eliminated and replaced with new rules as times change. The idea of a Eden-like pure free market is a fantasy and intended to create a distraction, much as corporations like to see union and non-union employees bicker with one another rather than focusing on why management gets the lion's share of profits no matter how hard the employees work. Who sets the rules, asks Reich? Are those rules intended to benefit the powerful and the few or are they intended to help society as a whole, the working poor and middle class and even wealthy people invariably on the outside looking in. Reich provides historic context to make the case that our current obsession with quarterly profits and the knee-jerk belief that shareholders are always more important than employees is a recent phenomenon and not the natural or necessary order of things. He takes down arguments against raising the minimum wage, he details the many changes to ownership and bankruptcy and copyright and other key areas that have in recent decades radically changed the landscape in favor of corporations over the middle class. Reich lays out an agenda of breathtaking ambition...and then plunges into the (near) future when much work will be roboticized and what we must do about that. This is not a book for the ages. It is not nimbly or vividly written; it is not peppered with colorful or specific anecdotes or wrenching reporting of real people that might humanize the story he tells. It is however not academic either. It's clearly reasoned, straightforward and sobering. I'm not sure any minds that are closed will be opened by it. But since the vast majority of Americans on both the left and right believe things must change, but aren't quite sure why or how, here's an answer worth reading. -- Michael Giltz

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What Others Say

A Publishers Weekly Business & Economics Top 10 selection for Fall 2015

"Audacious... Pragmatic... [Reich takes] on the very language used by the business world that perpetuates the myth that the private sector exists as magical sphere entirely unrelated to government." —EcoWatch

"Reich has both the stature and eloquence to make a compelling case... Highly recommended to all readers... Insightful." —Library Journal, starred review

"Arresting, thought-provoking... Readily understandable language... Powerful." —Publishers Weekly

"An accessible examination of how the 'apparent arbitrariness and unfairness of the economy [has] undermined the public's faith in its basic tenets.' The author takes a measured view even as he argues against free market orthodoxies... Reich's overriding message is that we don't have to put up with things as they are." —Kirkus

"This is an important and provocative book about the erosion of America's middle class by one of the nation's most