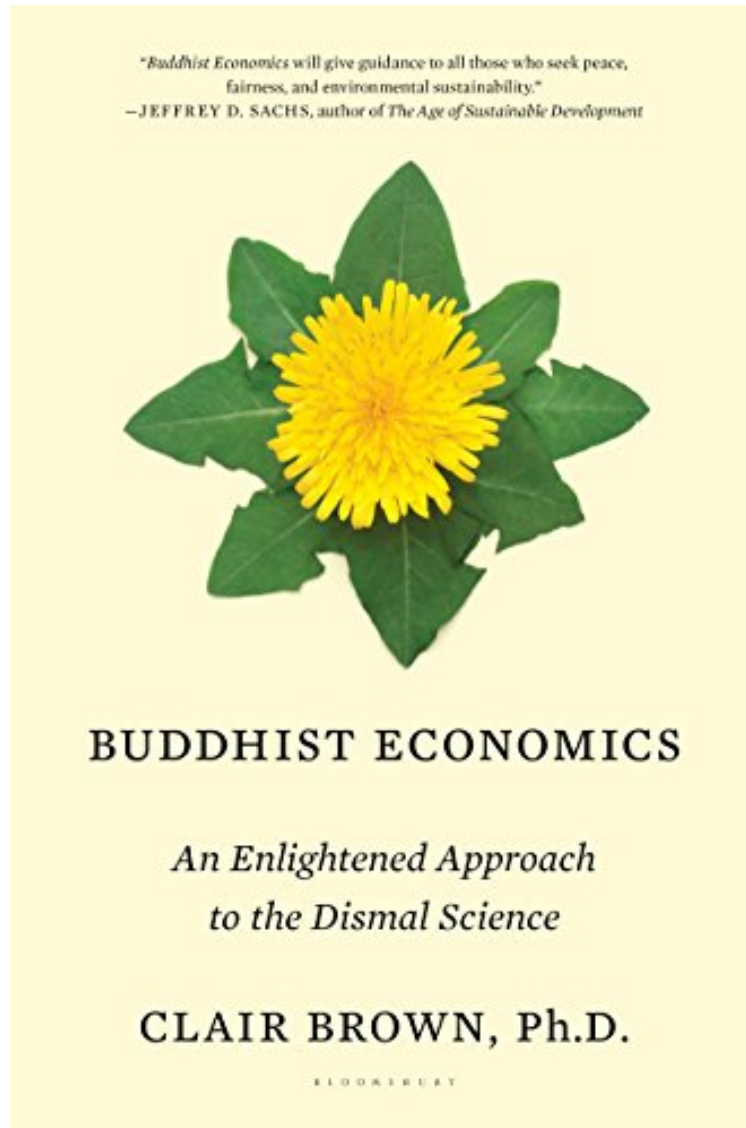


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# Buddhist Economics: An Enlightened Approach to the Dismal Science

*Clair Brown*

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**Clair Brown : Buddhist Economics: An Enlightened Approach to the Dismal Science** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buddhist Economics: An Enlightened Approach to the Dismal Science:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. And it's downright enlightening to read her ideas on how the system could be run better --- measure it better By Richard Katz You're definitely going to be surprised when you find out from Professor Brown here what Mainstream Economics --- what they teach in economics class --- leaves OUT when they

figure out how The Economy is doing. And it's downright enlightening to read her ideas on how the system could be run better --- measure it better, regulate it better, and spread the wealth so everybody is better off. Before I read the book, I wasn't aware that the economics we have now -- Mainstream Economics -- is "free market" economics; I wasn't aware of that, and what that implies, until I read Buddhist Economics, and then I was like Monsieur Jourdain in Moliere's *le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, who was SO delighted to find that he had been speaking Prose, all his life; but I'm not so delighted to find that this free market economics doesn't actually have any way to account for pollution, and environmental degradation, and other things that I learned from the book to call "externalities". What a dumb system. This Buddhist economics the Professor describes sounds like a much better idea. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Essential Reading By T.S. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (even for a dilettante such as myself). Clair Brown's "Buddhist Economics" is accessible, enlightening, and right on time. This wonderful book offers anyone, regardless of their political or religious leanings, a convincing model for a vastly healthier society. It deeply expands one's comprehension of the global economic fabric of which we are all a part while challenging the faulty foundational assumptions about human nature that have contributed to the widening economic disparity and planetary peril that are increasingly becoming the defining crises of our (not necessarily end) times. Offering expert analysis and a vital proposal, Brown sheds light on the unsustainable path that got us here and introduces a sustainable path toward a more equitable future. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a profound work combining head and heart. ...By Product Reviewer This is a profound work combining head and heart. Whether you are or not a Buddhist, are or are not an economist, you will find the writing clear and the argument well maintained. The book offers a path away from the our current road to destruction of our planet The path is compassion and interdependence. Economists write about interdependent utility functions but always from the perspective of jealous, rather than loving, comparisons. [don't worry -- no fancy language in this book] The author, an economist, draws from the deep well of Buddhist psychology to shed light on our shared condition. Short, deep, try it.

In the tradition of E. F. Schumacher's *Small Is Beautiful*, renowned economist Clair Brown argues persuasively for a new economics built upon equality, sustainability, and right living. "Buddhist Economics will give guidance to all those who seek peace, fairness, and environmental sustainability." - Jeffrey Sachs, author of *The Age of Sustainable Development*. Traditional economics measures the ways in which we spend our income, but doesn't attribute worth to the crucial human interactions that give our lives meaning. Clair Brown, an economics professor at U.C. Berkeley and a practicing Buddhist, has developed a holistic model, one based on the notion that quality of life should be measured by more than national income. Brown advocates an approach to organizing the economy that embraces rather than skirts questions of values, sustainability, and equity. Complementing the award-winning work of Jeffrey Sachs and Bill McKibben, and the paradigm-breaking spirit of Amartya Sen, Robert Reich, and Thomas Piketty, Brown incorporates the Buddhist emphasis on interdependence, shared prosperity, and happiness into her vision for a sustainable and compassionate world. Buddhist economics leads us to think mindfully as we go about our daily activities, and offers a way to appreciate how our actions affect the well-being of those around us. By replacing the endless cycle of desire with more positive collective activities, we can make our lives more meaningful as well as happier. Inspired by the popular course Professor Brown teaches at U.C. Berkeley, *Buddhist Economics* represents an enlightened approach to our modern world infused with ancient wisdom, with benefits both personal and global, for generations to come.

"This book will both shake up one's worldview and help calm one's agitated soul. It's a reminder that 'economics' is infinitely more interesting than the reductionist kind we teach in universities, and that 'religion' has far more to offer our everyday lives than we sometimes imagine." - Bill McKibben, Author *EAARTH* and Founder *350.org* "An important and provocative book about where conventional economics goes wrong. As Clair Brown masterfully shows, a new and more sensible economics would focus on a sustainable environment, shared prosperity, and interdependence. Instead of being a dismal science, economics should be an inspiring story of how we can work together to improve the quality of life for all." - Robert B. Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley, and author of *SAVING CAPITALISM* "Buddhist Economics will inspire people to seek a better and wiser use of society's know-how and resources. Brown declares her goal to 'expand the dialogue among people around the world who seek meaningful lives for all.' In this she succeeds splendidly." - Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University "A long, long time ago Adam Smith demonstrated that the economy would work pretty well if everyone were selfish. But Clair Brown has done considerably better. Her perceptive, interesting, fun book, *Buddhist Economics*, demonstrates that we could be so much more well off in many different ways, if, instead, we were just nice. This book has important messages for everyone. I hope that it will be read by all economists, and also by everyone else." - George Akerlof, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001 "Revolutionary and urgently needed. This brilliant and beautifully argued book will not only change how you think about the most pressing problems that concern us all, it will inspire you to paths of action that lead to those problems' solutions. This is a game-changing

read." - Dacher Keltner, author of *THE POWER PARADOX* About the Author Clair Brown is a professor of economics and director of the Center for Work, Technology, and Society at the University of California, Berkeley. An economist focusing on work and economic justice, she is a past director of the Institute of International Relations at Berkeley, and chair of the Committee on Education Policy of the UCB Academic Senate. She lives in Richmond, CA.