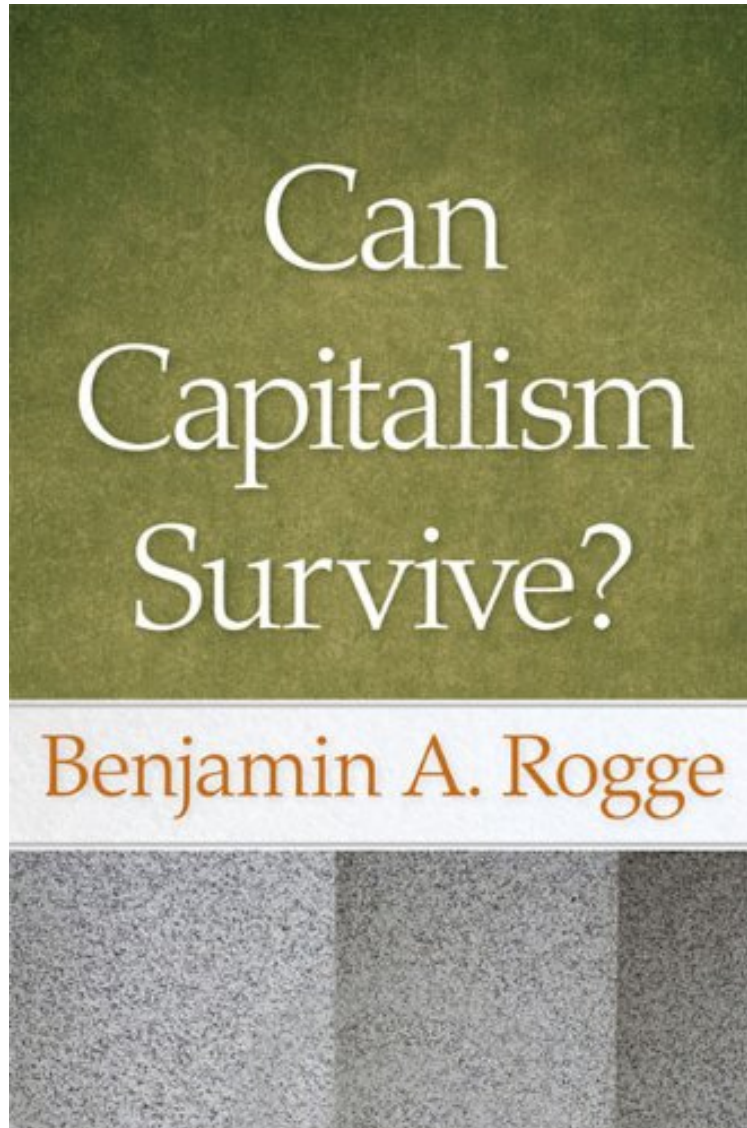


(Mobile book) Can Capitalism Survive?

Can Capitalism Survive?

Benjamin A. Rogge

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Benjamin A. Rogge : Can Capitalism Survive? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Can Capitalism Survive?:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Classic Review of the Freedoms We should Cherrish. The Enemy is Socialism.By Robert Granville LeeQuoting extensively from Adam Smith, Prof. George Schumpeter plus his own insights to the problems of a socialised economy, Ben Rogges seminal work is an important contribution to the difference between the depredations of Socialism and the right of Free People to guide their own destiny in a Free Society.Should be mandatory reading in High School Civics classes.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Stirring Defense of Capitalism and Liberty!By Kevin Currie-KnightOutside of Milton Friedman's "Free to Choose"

I cannot say that I have read a better or more enjoyable exposition of libertarian ideas than Benjamin Rogge's "Can Capitalism Survive." In fact, I am stunned that while I have been a follower of libertarianism for around 10 years now, I have only just now discovered the existence of this work. I can only hope that others have the same joy as I in reading this exciting work. The first essay, from which the book is titled, is one of the highlights. Quoting the political economist Joseph Schumpeter, Rogge asks whether capitalism can survive and gives a negative, but hopeful, answer. The people, he says, have a tendency to mistakenly attribute good things to happenstance or government intervention and bad things to failures of capitalism, getting it wholly backward. He also notes several reasons why intellectuals, who are in a good position to educate our students and policy makers, generally have an anti-capitalism bias. The second section of the book is also the section where Rogge defends libertarianism against competing political visions. While capitalism may not be the most loved governmental system of the masses, it is certainly the most moral, Rogge suggests. Here, Rogge bases his defense of moral libertarianism on the idea that people tend to know their own interests better than those who would act on their behalf. Also, Rogge makes much of the idea that people deserve to have the fruits of their own labor and bear the negative consequences of their own bad decisions (rather than others being forced to bear those consequences). The third section is a riveting (is that too strong a word for a book about economics?) encomium to economist/philosopher Adam Smith, and an application of Smith's ideas to modern (1961) problems. In this section, Rogge takes pains to dispel many common myths about Adam Smith, such as that he was pro-capitalist and anti-worker. (Rogge notes that Smith was not against VOLUNTARY unions, and very much against laws that would allow businesses to collude). Another interesting essay in this third section - "Christian Economics: Myth or Reality?" - sees Rogge dispelling the idea that there can be any such thing as a single correct "Christian economics" and that the bible can be read in a myriad of ways to support a myriad of economic policies (this, contrary to many recent books speculating "what Jesus would do" politically.) The next sections get into some hard-core economic issues, such as the REAL causes of inflation. I only wish that the Bush and Obama administrations had read Rogge's DEAD ON insight into the relationship between artificial lowering of interest rates and economic downturn. (Rogge furthers many ideas of Hayek and von Mises on the subject.) Rogge next writes a most interesting section (particularly to me, an educator) on education. Not surprisingly, he is in favor of a market based system which would give the consumer control over their educational trajectory. (At most, the "social justice" argument for publically subsidized education, Rogge notes, would support a voucher system where INDIVIDUALS are subsidized but governmentally controlled education is not demanded.) Also, Rogge makes a devastating case against tenure for teachers as a way to ensure that teachers remain unaccountable to students. Finally, the last section of the book sees Rogge return to his beginning question: can capitalism survive? While Rogge is still pessimistic about capitalism's future, he recommends that we fight for it tooth and nail, and that those in the best position - businesspeople - advocate for the system that has brought prosperity and liberty to the people. And in a world that sees George Bush and Barack Obama in the helm, we need to take Rogge's advice more than ever. Written in nontechnical and conversational language (all of the essays originally appeared as speeches), Can Capitalism Survive? is a very enjoyable and clearly written defense of a wonderful system as written by a wonderful expositor. Strongly recommended for any lover of liberty.

Benjamin A. Rogge; late Distinguished Professor of Political Economy at Wabash College; was a representative of that most unusual species: economists who speak and write in clear English. He forsakes professional jargon for clarity and logic; and can even be downright funny. The nineteen essays in this volume explore the philosophy of freedom, the nature of economics, the business system, labor markets, money and inflation, the problems of cities, education, and what must be done to ensure the survival of free institutions and capitalism.