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## Capitalism: Money, Morals and Markets

*John Plender*

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**John Plender : Capitalism: Money, Morals and Markets** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capitalism: Money, Morals and Markets:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An enlightening read that discusses capitalism from a unique perspective. By JS John Plender takes us on a journey describing capitalism from the unique context of its history and how it was influenced by Enlightenment thinkers. It explores the tug of war that exists between the benefits of capitalism in freeing men (and women) to pursue what is in their best interest while improving their lives and the lives of others on the one hand, and the other hand, the hazards of unrestrained greed. It is an enlightening read that

recognizes the many benefits to mankind from capitalism, but also identifies many of the problems that have arisen in the system as currently practiced - especially the problems with our banking system that became apparent in 2008.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good readBy Matt FA balanced view of capitalism. A little heavy on quotations but the writing style was understandable and enjoyable. One silly detail of the writing that I enjoyed: when the author referenced a text he'd previously mentioned, he would remind us of where that text showed up first in this book as a point of context.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A hard look from a true friendBy James FlanaganThe book is well written by a man of intelligence and deep knowledge of current economic trends, historical conditions, and philosophical understanding. In the end he remains a true friend of capitalism, not shirking from dealing with its deep and worrisome flaws, flaws that those other friends among us should not ignore.

Capitalism has lifted millions out of poverty. Under its guiding hand, living standards throughout the Western world have been transformed. Further afield, the trail blazed by Japan is being followed by other emerging market countries across the globe, creating prosperity on a breathtaking scale. And yet, capitalism is unloved. From its discontents to its outright enemies, voices compete to point out the flaws in the system that allow increasingly powerful elites to grab an ever larger share of our collective wealth. In this incisive, clear-sighted guide, award-winning Financial Times journalist John Plender explores the paradoxes and pitfalls inherent in this extraordinarily dynamic mechanism - and in our attitudes to it. Taking us on a journey from the Venetian merchants of the Renaissance to the gleaming temples of commerce in 21st-century Canary Wharf via the South Sea Bubble, Dutch tulip mania and manic-depressive gambling addicts, Plender shows us our economic creation through the eyes of philosophers, novelists, poets, artists and divines. Along the way, he delves into the ethics of debt; reveals the truth about the unashamedly materialistic artistic giants who pioneered copyrighting; and traces the path of our instinctive conviction that entrepreneurs are greedy, unethical opportunists, hell-bent on capital accumulation, while manufacturing is innately virtuous. Thoughtful, eloquent and above all compelling, Capitalism is a remarkable contribution to the enduring debate.

'It [Capitalism] does a better job of bringing together all the key issues facing today's global economy than any other book I've read... a delight to read.' - Tim Montgomerie, The Times; 'In this thoughtful and stimulating intervention, John Plender [...] offers a tour d'horizon of the debate, enlivened by a deep knowledge of the globaleconomy and an interest in history, together with an open-minded willingness to place capitalism on the scales of justice and see which way they tip.' - David Priestland, Financial Times; 'Plender is neither dogmatic nor prescriptive; if you like to read something that furnishes ideas for debate, then this book is for you.' - CapX; '[John Plender] approaches the quandaries of capitalism with a shrewd eye for detail.' - The EconomistAbout the AuthorJohn Plender: John Plender has been a senior editorial writer and columnist at the Financial Times since 1981. He has a weekly column on economics and business and also writes for the opinion pages.