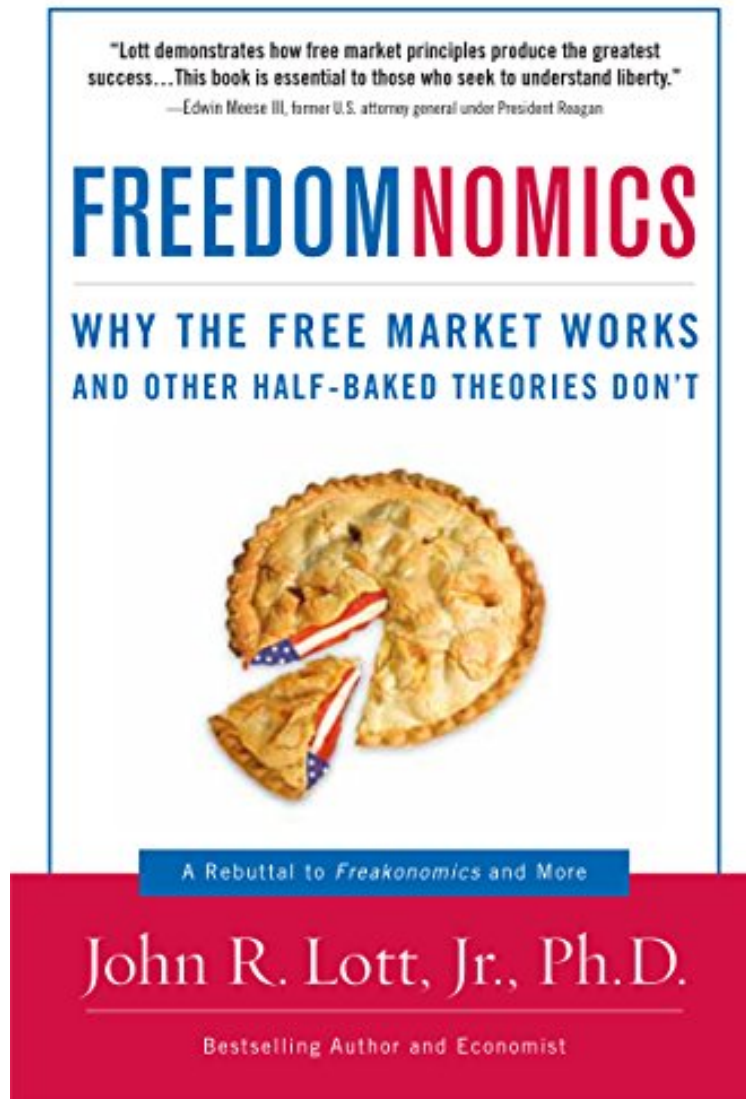


(Ebook free) Freedomnomics: Why the Free Market Works and Other Half-baked Theories Don't

Freedomnomics: Why the Free Market Works and Other Half-baked Theories Don't

John R. Lott

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



 Download

 Read Online

#856647 in eBooks 2007-06-04 2007-06-04 File Name: B0097D7HES | File size: 65.Mb

John R. Lott : Freedomnomics: Why the Free Market Works and Other Half-baked Theories Don't before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freedomnomics: Why the Free Market Works and Other Half-baked Theories Don't:

6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Bad Title -- Great Book By W. R. Reed This book is now officially added to my list of Top Ten Great Economics Books. John Lott follows in the grand tradition of Gary Becker and Milton Friedman by reminding us that individuals respond to incentives, and that markets work to give consumers

what they want. Perhaps an example best illustrates the approach of this book: In *Freakonomics*, Steve Levitt argues that realtors do not look out for the best interests of their clients because the benefit-cost ratio to them favors securing a sale at a lower price, as opposed to holding out for a higher price that might jeopardize the sale. In response, John Lott argues that the preceding example leaves out an important argument in the benefit-cost analysis: Realtors also have to be concerned about their reputations. Those realtors who are able to secure top dollar for their clients will attract more business. Those who sell out too quickly, at too low a price will lose business. These reputational costs can be quite substantial and may well swamp the narrow benefit-cost analysis put forth in *Freakonomics*. This is not to say that the analysis in *Freakonomics* is wrong. Just that it lacks an appreciation of how markets respond to the kinds of problems highlighted by Levitt. This market-based approach is followed consistently throughout *Freedomnomics*, and it does so by applying this thinking to a lot of controversial, seemingly non-economic subject areas (e.g. crime, politics). Whether one ends up agreeing with John Lott's analysis is not the point. The point is that one will have their mind stretched by Lott's original and insightful analysis of how markets work.

6 of 10 people found the following review helpful. **GOOD GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO MARKET ECONOMICS** By Stephen Scott This book is in dire need for many people who are fearful of free-market economies. John Lott is able to communicate basic free market principles and how they work far better than government intervention, which despite all good intentions, usually backfire. Lott demonstrates through allegory and solid examples on the purpose behind free markets. Would companies want their customers to die? Would they want to inflict harm? Not if they want more customers. Adam Smith's "invisible hand of competition" does work if people would trust the market instead of pleading for government intervention. While government uses its power to stop monopolistic practices, it often excludes itself from setting a monopoly itself. It has also hindered the market of professionals by creating licensing and schooling requirements to keep out qualified applicants (although government has conspired with those professionals). The premises work well as an introductory treatise that will hopefully point to more free market economic theorists like Milton Friedman, Thomas Sowell, and the father of free-market ideology, Adam Smith. He also does not stop there. He looks at social issues, revealing how well-intentioned government policies have led to more abuse and larger government. Why did crime fall in the 1990's? Instead of looking to the simplistic notion of *Roe v. Wade* allowing abortion, he shows other possible explanations. He also shows how Women's Suffrage and other voting rights has possibly led to more voter fraud and an exponential growth of government. While some might label his endeavors as sexist, he merely chronicles two factors that could possibly be related. This leads to my only criticism of his book. He points to FDR as the leader who started the immense growth of government when it really got started during the Progressive Era under Teddy Roosevelt's watch. FDR took it to the next level, and Johnson to the nth degree. Still, this is good for an introduction for those who really do not understand the free markets. Will there be deception and abuse of power in the free market? Yes. But just as William Buckley said, "The problem with Capitalism is Capitalists. The problem with Communism is Communism."

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **Great Book** By David Kirkland Great book. It really does a good job of analyzing and looking at factors that *Freakonomics* overlooks. It's a great book that every should read.

How free-market economies really work (and why they work so well) Are free market economies really based on fleecing the consumer? Is the U.S. economy truly just a giant free-for-all that encourages duplicity in our everyday transactions? Is everyone from corporate CEOs to your local car salesman really looking to make a buck at your expense? In *Freedomnomics: Why the Free Market Works and Other Half-Baked Theories Don't*, economist and bestselling author John R. Lott, Jr., answers these and other common economic questions, bravely confronting the profound distrust of the market that the bestselling book *Freakonomics* has helped to popularize. Using clear and hard-hitting examples, Lott shows how free markets liberate the best, most creative, and most generous aspects of our society--while efforts to constrain economic liberty, no matter how well-intentioned, invariably lead to increased poverty and injustice. Extending its rigorous economic analysis even further to our political and criminal justice systems, *Freedomnomics* reveals: How the free market creates incentives for people to behave honestly? How political campaign restrictions keep incumbents in power? Why legalized abortion leads to family breakdown, which creates more crime? Why affirmative action in police departments leads to higher crime rates? How women's suffrage led to a massive increase in the size of government; Why women become more conservative when they get married and more liberal when they get divorced? How secret ballots reduce voter participation? Why state-owned companies and government agencies are much more likely to engage in unfair predation than are private firms? Why the controversial assertions made in the trendy book *Freakonomics* are almost entirely wrong? Entertaining, persuasive, and based on dozens of economic studies spanning decades, *Freedomnomics* not only shows how free markets really work--but proves that, when it comes to promoting prosperity and economic justice, nothing works better.