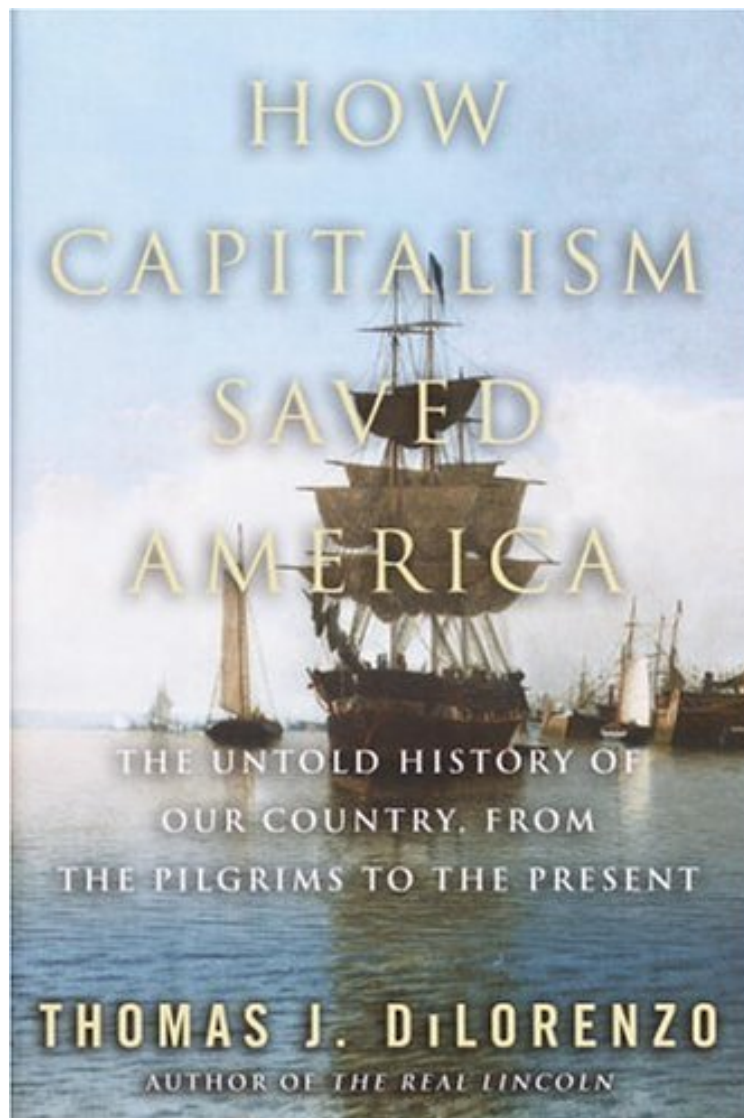


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## How Capitalism Saved America: The Untold History of Our Country, from the Pilgrims to the Present

*Thomas J. DiIorenzo*

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**Thomas J. DiIorenzo : How Capitalism Saved America: The Untold History of Our Country, from the Pilgrims to the Present** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How Capitalism Saved America: The Untold History of Our Country, from the Pilgrims to the Present:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Anyone who believes Government is the answer should read this book By Douglas Goldstein Although Thomas DiIorenzo's arguments are very compelling and the author has a

very good sense of American history, many questions still remain after reading "How Capitalism Saved America." For example, he explains that the "free rider" problem of privatizing the building of streets, railroads, and canals is a myth. The presumption is that people, unless forced by the government, would not put up money to build roads. It's a reasonable argument, the author explains, but has been proven wrong in practice. He provides a great deal of evidence, pointing out that in the early 1800s, thousands of turnpikes were built with private money, and hundreds of companies were in the business of road building. It's a great point, demonstrating that not one or two, but thousands of roads were constructed through private enterprise. However, since that time two hundred years ago, millions of miles of roads were built by governments. Although the government construction of roads surely included a healthy dose of bribery and inefficiency, anyone today can drive from New York to California anytime. Who built all of that? Governments, with taxpayer money. Would that have happened if the design, planning, and construction was left to private interests? I'm not really sure. Moreover, whose land would the roads have been built on? I am sure that the author has answers to these questions, but I would have liked them explained further in a contemporary framework rather than simply relating to what happened hundreds of years ago. Though I have questions about some of DiLorenzo's theories, I was not turned off by them. To the contrary, I finished "How Capitalism Saved America" and then immediately bought his book, "The Problem with Socialism." I highly recommend both books. (See my upcoming review of "The Problem with Socialism.") 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Free Markets By M. Heiss It's Free Markets. Not capitalism. Free Markets are cooperative. Fair exchange. Non-coerced. Suppliers competing for customers. Productive. Creative. Choice. Trade offs. Growing the pie. Protagonistic. Capitalism is a pejorative dreamed up by Marx and applied to a system Marx wanted to crush. Competitive. Compulsory. Dog eat dog. Exploitative. Fixed pie, zero sum. Antagonistic. That does not in any way describe the economic system of free people. I consistently teach Free Markets. I shun the word capitalism. But... this book is exactly right for teaching how Free Markets built and saved America. So I use it for high school history. Especially good for the history of the "Progressive movement". Ch 6: How Free Markets enriched the working class Ch 7: The truth about "robber barons" (captains of industry) Ch 8: Antitrust myths Ch 10: How the New Deal crippled Free markets Free markets. Free markets. DiLorenzo gets everything right. Using this for instruction, I first do a great deal on the totalitarian projects of the 20th century, then I do economics, and then this book. Teens love this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Capital By Robert G. Shaver How Capitalism Saved America This book reflects on Laissez-faire method of doing business and why it works. It starts with Adam Smith vs Alexander Hamilton and our present Mercantilism system. It reviews true Capitalists Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Hill and others who contributed to the nation's success. It is critical of government subsidized business and control. It reviews the failure government intervention i.e. railroads, transportation, wage control, etc. The author makes a good argument that government is creating more trouble by setting up controls than letting the free market regulate its self through supply and demand. A must read book for those interested economy and the "isms".

Whether it's Michael Moore or the New York Times, Hollywood or academia, a growing segment in America is waging a war on capitalism. We hear that greedy plutocrats exploit the American public; that capitalism harms consumers, the working class, and the environment; that the government needs to rein in capitalism; and on and on. Anticapitalist critiques have only grown more fevered in the wake of corporate scandals like Enron and WorldCom. Indeed, the 2004 presidential campaign has brought frequent calls to re-regulate the American economy. But the anticapitalist arguments are pure bunk, as Thomas J. DiLorenzo reveals in *How Capitalism Saved America*. DiLorenzo, a professor of economics, shows how capitalism has made America the most prosperous nation on earth—and how the sort of government regulation that politicians and pundits endorse has hindered economic growth, caused higher unemployment, raised prices, and created many other problems. He propels the reader along with a fresh and compelling look at critical events in American history—covering everything from the Pilgrims to Bill Gates. And just as he did in his last book, *The Real Lincoln*, DiLorenzo explodes numerous myths that have become conventional wisdom. *How Capitalism Saved America* reveals: • How the introduction of a capitalist system saved the Pilgrims from starvation • How the American Revolution was in large part a revolt against Britain's stifling economic controls • How the so-called robber barons actually improved the lives of millions of Americans by providing newer and better products at lower prices • How the New Deal made the Great Depression worse • How deregulation got this country out of the energy crisis of the 1970s—and was not the cause of recent blackouts in California and the Northeast • And much more *How Capitalism Saved America* is popular history at its explosive best. From the Hardcover edition.