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## Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know?

*Leonard E. Burman, Joel Slemrod*  
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#605057 in eBooks 2012-10-25 2012-10-25 File Name: B009UU4KNO | File size: 36.Mb

**Leonard E. Burman, Joel Slemrod : Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know?:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Very Good and Informative BookBy Veronique de RugyI read this book last weekend and I thought it was excellent. The authors did a great job presenting complicated facts about the tax code, specific taxes, the incidence of taxes and more in a simple and neutral way. I say this even more comfortably that I am of a rather different school of thoughts than the authors. If you are interested in tax issues but don't know

enough or you know a lot and simply want learn about how to talk about taxes in a way that won't put people to sleep, this book is a must read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thought this book was a waste of my time and moneyBy AriaAs a graduate student studying taxation, I thought this book was a waste of my time and money. Contained a lot of contradictions and ramblings. A few of my classmates also read it and thought the same.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Want a better tax system? Read this book!By Jason FichtnerTax policy and tax reform ideas seem to be a never-ending story in the news these days -- while the public seems more and more confused and lack an understanding about the fundamental principles needed to effectively evaluate tax policies. Burman and Slemrod do an excellent public service by offering this book in an easy to understand manner. The writing is crisp, clear and even at times funny (and not just funny to a tax economist). As the other reviewers on this page have noted, the authors do an excellent job presenting tax concepts in a non-politically biased manner. This book is useful for people on both sides of the political aisle and especially for citizens looking for a book to help explain the economic and public policy tradeoffs associated with tax policy. This book will also make an excellent primer for a public policy class on tax policy...and I will likely use it myself in future classes.Taxes are not only the price we pay for a civilized society, taxes are also the price we pay as a society that uses the tax code to try and achieve social policy objectives, such as equality, income redistribution, home ownership, savings incentives, work incentives, healthcare coverage, economic stimulus, etc...the list goes on and on. These social policy goals have both economic and societal costs and benefits -- Burman and Slemrod do a good job explaining these tradeoffs.If everyone in this country read this book and came away with a proper understanding of the incidence/burden of various forms of taxation (Chapter 2) or how some tax breaks can rightly be classified as spending (Chapter 7 - Burman's letter to Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show" on tax expenditures is a definite must read), then we might actually be able to pass legislation and institute a tax system that we truly deserve...not the one we currently have.

Despite their passion and fury, contemporary Americans are remarkably clueless about how their tax system works. But with heated debates over taxation now roiling Congress and the nation, an understanding of our tax system is of vital importance. *Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know?*, by preeminent tax scholars Leonard E. Burman and Joel Slemrod, offers a clear, concise explanation of how our tax system works, how it affects people and businesses, and how it might be improved. Accessibly written and organized in a clear, question-and-answer format, the book describes the intricacies of the modern tax system in an easy-to-grasp manner. Burman and Slemrod begin with the basic definitions of taxes and then delve into more complicated and indeed contentious concerns. They address such questions as how to recognize Fool's Gold tax reform plans. How much more tax could the IRS collect with better enforcement? How do tax burdens vary around the world? Why do corporations pay so little tax, even though they earn trillions of dollars every year? And what kind of tax system is most conducive to economic growth?*What Everyone Needs to Know?* is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

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