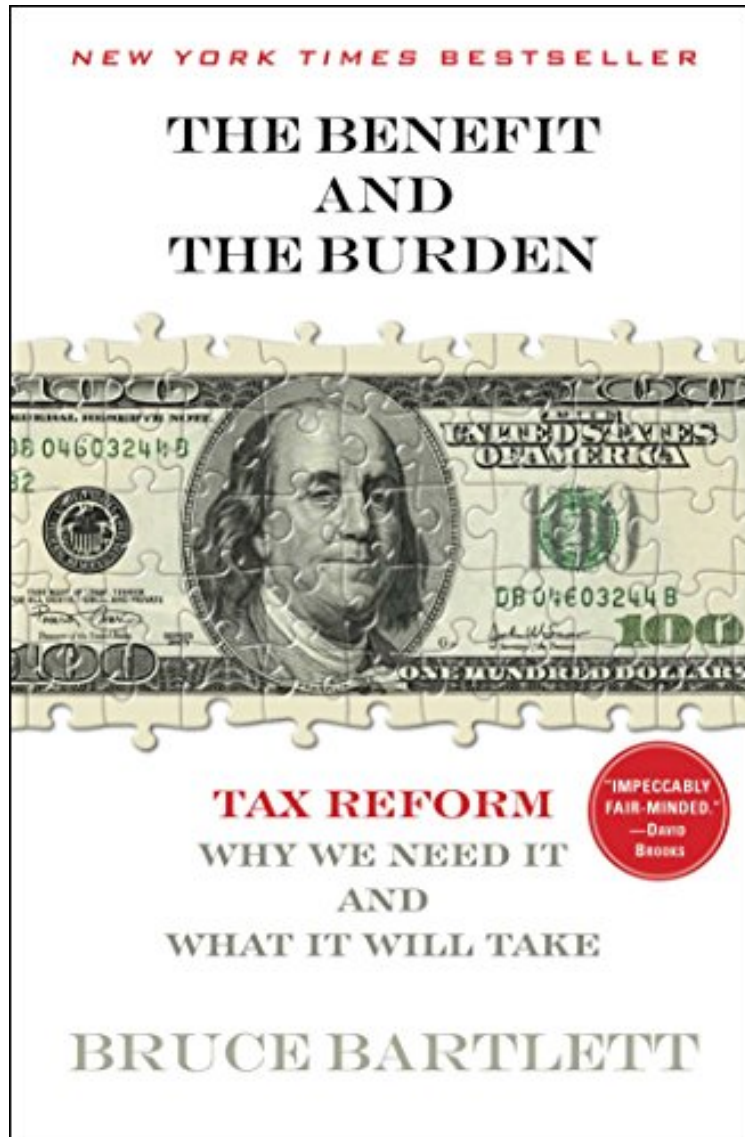


The Benefit and The Burden: Tax Reform-Why We Need It and What It Will Take

Bruce Bartlett

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



#230540 in eBooks 2012-01-24 2012-01-24File Name: B005LJEVDM | File size: 28.Mb

Bruce Bartlett : The Benefit and The Burden: Tax Reform-Why We Need It and What It Will Take before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Benefit and The Burden: Tax Reform-Why We Need It and What It Will Take:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic and accessibleBy Jessamyn ConradI rarely write reviews for books I read but I thought this one needed more praise. I got the book after I saw Bartlett on the Daily Show and

was impressed by his total lack of craziness. The book is really interesting, rational, and even-handed and totally accessible to a lay reader. It's not like reading the tax code. I'm not sure what I would call the author, politically, and that is extremely refreshing because it's hard to find information on policy that's not skewed by a strong political orientation. Usually you have to read between rhetorical lines and though the author has and gives his own opinions (and thank you, WHY don't we have a VAT??) he talks about a lot of other opinions and ideas, too. I kind of wish this guy ran part of the economy, but I'm awfully glad he wrote this book. It's really a must for anyone with even a glancing interest in the economy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bruce does a very good job outlining facts from perceived misconception of our taxes

By Anthony C. Bruce does a very good job outlining facts from perceived misconception of our taxes. All we get are just sound bites from political pundits or supposed policy making experts, but never are we shown the actual results of different tax policies and how it became the mess it is today. Bruce lays it out empirically of years of tax policies and government expenditures, brushing away the fog that the media loves to pump into everyone's minds. If you really want to take a objective look into what got our tax system into the mess it is now, what actually works and doesn't, and what it'll take to make reforms to our system. This is truly the book you need to pick up. It's not exactly a quick or thrilling read, but as you learn more and get near the end, you're going to get angry and want to share what you learned with everyone!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fact vs Fiction

By Eric C. Petersen The book is a quite detailed look at the US tax system, but Bartlett does an excellent job of leading the reader forward; comprehensible and easy to follow along. In all-too-many things economic in the USA, tax policy included, it's rather amazing how myth manages to trump reality, possibly because a large portion of the populace have a "values-faith based" approach to economics, i.e., are willing to believe things for which no rational proof exists, but they "believe" it anyway. Two possible examples: The Grover Norquist, tax pledge, Tea Party types universally excoriate the Euro Nanny State, a socialist quagmire the USA should never fall into. However, we spend a higher portion of our GDP on social spending than the OECD average - by about three percentage points - a fact that is obscured by the complex interaction of US tax credits and deductions, negative expenditures. I won't detail the math here, read the book to find out how this is possible. Second, and most germane to today's battles in Congress on tax and spending policies, the unquestioned driver behind the Conservatives fiscal policy approach is "starve the beast," an approach started under Reagan - "Time to take the credit card away from the federal government." This approach is based on two fundamental beliefs: Increases in taxes will only lead to higher government spending; a decrease in taxes the opposite. Whilst this worldview has a symplistic appeal, the actual record for the last two decades shows it is totally at odds with the facts. (Again I will not detail as Bartlett does an excellent job on this topic.) Hence we have a tax policy now adopted by most of the new membership in Congress that's totally unsupported by any rational analysis, and one that can persist only as long as the USA can convince the recipients of this minor residual error, aka the US deficit, to keep buying our debt. So far, foreign central banks, like China, have been willing to play the game and continue buy near zero-return US government securities. This game clearly cannot go on, and when it ends things are going to get very nasty - but that's probably beyond this year's election cycle so who cares?

A thoughtful and surprising argument for American tax reform, arguably the most overdue political debate facing the nation, from one of the most respected political and economic thinkers, advisers, and writers of our time.

THE UNITED STATES TAX CODE HAS UNDERGONE NO SERIOUS REFORM SINCE 1986. Since then, loopholes, exemptions, credits, and deductions have distorted its clarity, increased its inequity, and frustrated our ability to govern ourselves. By tracing the history of our own tax system and assessing the way other countries have solved similar problems, Bruce Bartlett explores the surprising answers to all these issues, giving a sense of the tax coders' many benefits—and its inevitable burdens. From one of the most respected political and economic thinkers, advisers, and writers of our time, *The Benefit and the Burden* is a thoughtful and surprising argument for American tax reform.