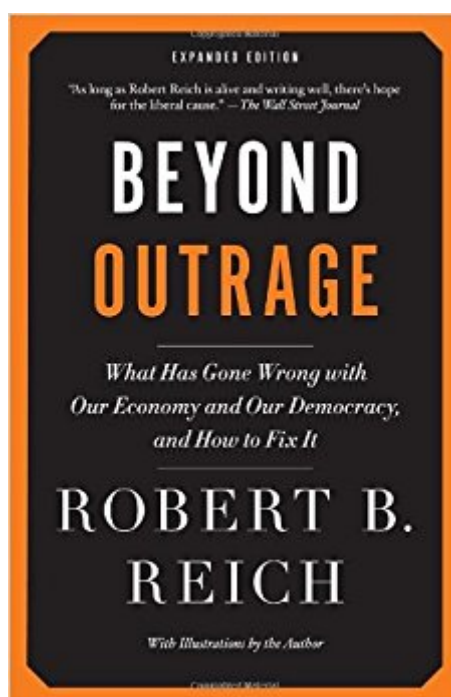


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Beyond Outrage: Expanded Edition: What Has Gone Wrong With Our Economy And Our Democracy, And How To Fix It



Synopsis

America's economy and democracy are working for the benefit of an ever-fewer privileged and powerful people. But rather than just complain about it or give up on the system, we must join together and make it work for all of us. In this timely book, Robert B. Reich argues that nothing good happens in Washington unless citizens are energized and organized to make sure Washington acts in the public good. The first step is to see the big picture. *Beyond Outrage* connects the dots, showing why the increasing share of income and wealth going to the top has hobbled jobs and growth for everyone else, undermining our democracy; caused Americans to become increasingly cynical about public life; and turned many Americans against one another. He also explains why the proposals of the "progressive right" are dead wrong and provides a clear roadmap of what must be done instead. Here's a plan for action for everyone who cares about the future of America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beyond Outrage: What has gone wrong with our economy and our democracy, and how to fix it by Robert B. Reich "Beyond Outrage" is a plea for action for those who care about the Future of America. Accomplished author of twelve books and current Professor of Public Policy, Robert Reich provides insight to what happened to our economy and how to fix it. In a lucid and persuasive manner, Reich provides compelling arguments in support of his main thesis: that our economy and democracy has been manipulated against average working people and what can be done about it. This Kindle Single is an intellectual appetizer. This 1744 KB book is broken out into three parts: Part

One. The Rigged Game, Part Two. The Rise of the Regressive Right, and Part Three. Beyond Outrage: What You Need to Do. Positives: 1. Well written, accessible book that gets to the points. 2. Robert Reich is an excellent author with a mastery of the subject. 3. Establishes upfront the main thesis of this Kindle Single and what the reader should expect from the main body of the book. 4. Provides seven dots that when connected show why our economic system is out of whack. 5. Thought-provoking comments, "Republicans want us to believe that the central issue is the size of government, but the real issue is whom government is for." 6. The gist of the problem; the super-rich have rigged our economy in their favor and at the expense of the average American. Reich provides an overwhelming amount of data in support of his argument. Outrage indeed. 7. The issue of revolving doors with regards to regulators and the corporations they were supposed to regulate. 8. The relation between the super-rich and their political influence. The political influence that money can buy. 9.

Robert Reich writes periodic books that address economic and societal issues emerging over time. His background as a liberal thought leader, Secretary of Labor, television guest and professor provides him with an insider and outspoken perspective on our current political alternatives. Unlike the many similar books published during this election cycle, in "Beyond Outrage" Reich focuses less on how we got here and more on what it means to us to continue down the Democratic/Progressive path vs. the Republican/Regressive path. This seems critical as so many people seem to be leaning and eventually voting against their own best interests. The book is divided into three parts. In Part One, Reich works through an analysis of how wealthy plutocrats and corporations have colluded with the government to rig the system against average working people. He discusses topics like 1) how little risk corporations and CEOs really face and whether working people can survive when the wealthy get all the rewards, 2) how the business-first, tear-down-regulations, military focus of the government has stacked the deck, 3) how the wealthy have so many resources that they will do/spend as much as it takes to keep things the way they are, and other topics reminiscent of Mike Lofgren's just-published "The Party Is Over." It seems to me that if we continue down this path--rather than being most respected for our innovations, our culture and our championing of human rights--America will soon be the world's greatest offshore employer and purveyor of weaponry. Not exactly something to be proud of, when we can fire people or in severe cases take them out from afar. Reich describes why corporations will not be the ones who lead us back.

This "Single" does some really great things. Anyone reading with a truly open mind would have to

agree that the situation Reich describes is deplorable--unconscionable. He begins with some terrific facts; "The tax cuts...saved the richest 1.4 million taxpayers...more money than the rest of America's 140.89 million taxpayers..." "...one out of every three homeowners with a mortgage is under water..." "In 2010, 18,000 American households earning more than half a million dollars paid no income taxes at all." "It turns out that only an estimated 10 percent of all charitable deductions are directed at the poor." He makes all these statements in defining what others have come to call "the 1% society". His case for change is iron-clad. Just about everything he did well AND not-well are neatly listed by Top 500 reviewer J. Gomez. Where I think Reich is weak is in not giving you a proper image of what caused all this. Where he fails abominably is in his prescription for redress of this grievance. He points out that things weren't always this way. Under Republican President Eisenhower (from 1953-1960) top income tax rates were 90%, and effective total rate was 52%. We were prosperous, progressive and happy. (The period was marked by the expression "I like Ike!") What has happened in this country is that business ran roughshod over everyone else with no control or regulation from the end of the civil war until the end of the gilded age, and came crashing down on America's head with the Great Depression. Before that, it would be difficult to gauge America's ideological polarity, but following the abortive Hoover administration and its introduction of 25% unemployment, the needle swung dramatically to the LEFT.

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