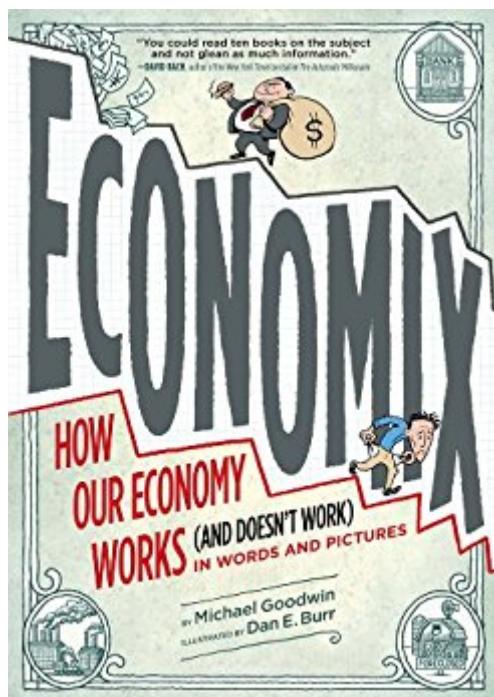


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# Economix: How And Why Our Economy Works (and Doesn't Work), In Words And Pictures



## Synopsis

Stimulus plans: good or bad? Free markets: How free are they? Jobs: Can we afford them? Occupy Wall Street . . . worldwide! Everybody's talking about the economy, but how can we, the people, understand what Wall Street or Washington knows "or say they know? Read *Economix*. With clear, witty writing and quirky, accessible art, this important and timely graphic novel transforms the dismal science of economics into a fun, fact-filled story about human nature and our attempts to make the most of what we've got . . . and sometimes what our neighbors have got. *Economix* explains it all, from the beginning of Western economic thought, to markets free and otherwise, to economic failures, successes, limitations, and future possibilities. It's the essential, accessible guide to understanding the economy and economic practices. A must-read for every citizen and every voter.

PRAISE FOR *ECONOMIX*

"Goodwin brilliantly contextualizes economic theories with historical narrative, while Burr's simple but elegant illustration employs classical techniques like caricaturing politicians and symbolizing big businesses (as a gleeful factory) to help the reader visualize difficult concepts."

"Publishers Weekly, starred review" "[Economix] brings a lively visual sensibility to this intensely abstruse subject matter without condescending to the reader or dumbing the ideas down."

"MotherJones.com" "Flat-out awesome!"

"Wired.com" "This witty and elegant volume takes on a number of complex issues" "in this case, economics, history and finance" "and makes them comprehensible for mere mortals."

"Miami Herald" "After reading *Economix* I felt like I understood many fundamental aspects about the way the world works that I had been too lazy to learn about before . . . *Economix* is a book I'm going to buy and give to people."

"Boing Boing" "Having never taken economics in college, I find the world of high finance needlessly complicated and confusing. Thankfully Michael Goodwin saw the need for a basic primer on how the economy currently works and how we got here. A text like this would certainly help high school and college students gain their first taste of financial literacy and it comes recommended for the rest of us."

"ComicMix.com" "Just when the world seems to have fallen apart thanks to the economy, Goodwin and Burr's *Economix* comes along to give us some understanding of the immense, yet still delicate machine" "that controls our world so that we can be the rulers with our votes and not the uninformed (or disinforme) ruled."

"BigThink.com" "Michael Goodwin hasn't just written a great graphic novel" "he's written one that should be required for every school, newsroom and library in the United States."

"Minneapolis Star Tribune" "It's simply phenomenal. You could read ten books on the subject and not glean as much information."

"David Bach" "founder of FinishRich Media; author of nine New York Times bestsellers, including *Debt Free for Life* and *The Automatic Millionaire*" "Goodwin

has done the seemingly impossibleâ "he has made economics comprehensible and funny.â •â " Joel Bakan, author of *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*â œAn amazing lesson in true-world economics! Delightfully presented, powerful, insightful, and important information! What a fun way to fathom a deep and often dark subject!â •â " John Perkins, author of *Hoodwinked* and the New York Times bestseller *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*â œSmart, insightful, clear, and as close to the truth as economics can get. The bonus: Who would have guessed that economics could be fun, andâ "here's the joyâ "really accessible? Goodwin roots us in history and fills us with common sense understanding. As he puts it early on, economics seems horribly complicated mostly because we're looking at it all at once. Broken down into its component pieces, it's relatively easy to understand. And a good understanding of economics is critical to maneuvering in the world today. If I were compiling a list of the 100 most important books you can read in a lifetime, this would be on it.â •

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

UPDATE 5/20/14: The Law of Supply and Demand wins out. I can't find a better primer on economics for students (or anyone), so I must live with the single aspect of the book I dislike. I have

raised my rating from one star to four. I still hope that for the second edition, the authors will reconsider their needless criticism of gun owners, et al. **EARLIER REVIEW:** The author takes unnecessary potshots at too many people and ends up shooting himself in the foot, as far as I'm concerned. I was excited about reading this book and sharing it with my teenagers until the author started belittling conservatives in general. Attacking bad ideas and dumb individuals--specific ideas and specific individuals--is fine with me, but attacking huge swaths of people solely because they own guns or belong to the Republican Party is no smarter than insulting a whole race or religion because you dislike one characteristic of some of its members. Take the high road instead, and make a logical argument against that characteristic. It's the people at whom you are sneering that you most need to convince. The primary means the government uses to control us isn't secrecy; it's our disdain for each other. It's so easy to trigger that disdain and make people support a bad policy, if it appears to be sticking it to our (apparent) political enemies. If the author revises the book and deletes the mudslinging, I'll buy that version and recommend it to others. The current version has left a bad taste in my mouth.

The author's concept, communicating basic economic theory through a graphic novel is very interesting and creative. It must have been terribly difficult to achieve such a good result in so few pages. The odd thing about the book is that you whiz from Adam Smith to the 1950's in about 1/2 of the book and then you hit an increasingly political diatribe and the deft talent that the author showed in the first half of the book for quickly describing complicated and difficult topics starts to disappear, replaced by an increasingly tone-deaf one-sided one-size-fits-all philosophy. This is too bad as the author does a VERY nice job of laying out his arguments and would have been considerably more convincing if he had come across as a teacher who has lots of disturbing questions about the official line instead of as a person who knows everything. In spite of the disappointment at the end, the book earns 4 stars from me for two reasons:- The first part of the book is solid gold and should be required reading for every high school student- The author admitted that he was going over the edge before he got too far into his arguments. This kind of self-awareness is rare in textbook authors and I encourage more to emulate the author's confidence and sense of humor

What an incredible way to learn about the history of economics. I was skeptical as I began to tiptoe into this book, already thinking I was a lost cause as it related to understanding how money, business, and government worked. But, *Economix* makes its subject fascinating and understandable. Goodwin somehow makes our history clear and often hilarious, although it's

justifiably a tragic humor. This book has given me clearer understanding of market crashes, communism, the New Deal, laissez-faire, etc. The collaboration between Goodwin and his illustrator, Burr, is solid. Goodwin expresses his wish for the book to be a foundation for people learning about economics and I can't imagine a stronger one.

Really a treatise on why the USA economy is where it is after the Great Recession. Does go into economic theory but its strength lies in reviewing policies implemented in the USA. Because basic economic theory (which should be understood before reading this comic) should be already part the reader's knowledge before reading (see Yoram Bauman and Grady Klein's Cartoon Introduction to Economics Vol-1 [http://www..com/gp/product/0809094819/ref=cm\\_cr\\_ryp\\_prd\\_ttl\\_sol\\_55](http://www..com/gp/product/0809094819/ref=cm_cr_ryp_prd_ttl_sol_55) and Vol-2 [http://www..com/gp/product/0809033615/ref=cm\\_cr\\_ryp\\_prd\\_ttl\\_sol\\_53](http://www..com/gp/product/0809033615/ref=cm_cr_ryp_prd_ttl_sol_53)), this isn't necessarily where to start so to grasp economic theory. For a guy like me who has virtually no background in the subject, the information is somewhat unsettling but expected (a lot of the information has been mentioned-in-passing on radio, television, and various printed media.)

The book is an informative crash course about the history of economics; particularly, in US and the western world. The history spans from the British monopolies to WW1 to WW2 to 2008 Wall Street crash. The book talks about various theories of economy and their pros and cons. Of course, the book does contain opinions from the author, but then which literary work doesn't. All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. Very informative!!

My Intro to Micro and Macro textbooks didn't teach me many useful things about economics, just a few theories and graphs based on models divorced from reality. Until now my favourite book about econ was Economics For Everyone by Jim Stanford, but *Economix* is way better. It made a lot of excellent points which I've never heard before, such as: classical liberals and neo-liberals want a small government because they don't want it to oppress people, but they seem oblivious to the fact that corporations can oppress people too and the only organization capable of keeping them in check is the government; a private oligopoly controlling the vast majority of a market is as bad, or worse, than a government monopoly; Adam Smith was as concerned about the concentration of private power as anyone on the left today. As well as a few conclusions I had arrived at myself but never had anyone else back me up on before, such as: mainstream economists talk about unnecessary math to describe theoretical models with little resemblance to reality. I would have liked if the book included something about monetary reform, but it's an obscure topic so I wouldn't be

surprised if even a researcher as good as the author didn't know about it. Buy this book and share it with your friends when you're done!

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