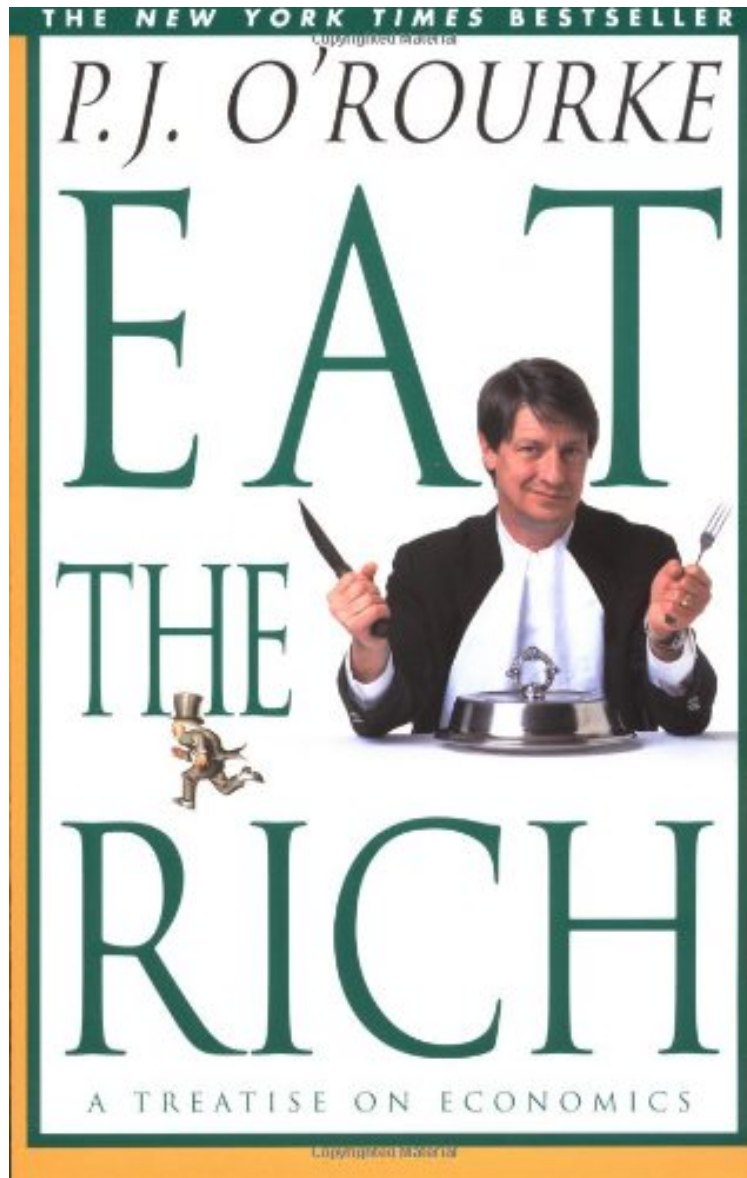


[Download free pdf] Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics

## Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics

*P. J. O'Rourke*

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**P. J. O'Rourke : Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting take on economics/capitalism but not really a reference or guide By D. Arnett In short, government control of capitalism in the United States walks a fine line of allowing the economy get bogged down in rules and taxation (and killing the golden goose) or allowing the money to

be under-regulated (becoming the tail that wags the dog.) Interestingly, PJ basically says that the good ol' US of A almost got capitalism right but that politicians are constantly thinking that "improvements" can be done. He sort of gets carried away with examining how capitalism behaves elsewhere (but after a while you realize that nothing quite measures up to what is in the USA, not that PJ ever really says that it's really optimized in America either.) I originally thought of using it as an economics reference for my youngster but ultimately it's a poor guide to how to think about an economy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Winsome and Accessible Defense of the Free Market By Kevin Babbl I gave O'Rourke's book to my early-college aged daughter as part of her introduction to classical free market economics, along with Niall Ferguson's "The Ascent of Money" and Milton and Rose Friedman's "Free to Choose". I first read this book when it was new, and it continues to offer a winsome and accessible explanation of the principles underlining free market capitalism. As is typical someone who started his journalistic career as a writer for National Lampoon, O'Rourke's writing can be as profane as it is profound, and sometimes comes across as though it was written by a college sophomore--but one who has an extraordinary grasp of economic realities. I would not recommend it as the last word one would read for an apologia of classical economics, but it provides a good framework for later studies in more, shall we say, serious works. The last chapter alone is worth the price of admission. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good, but could have been better. By Joel S. Rose P. J. O'Rourke's "Eat the Rich" provides a look at various economies, from centrally controlled Cuba to the totally uncontrolled firmer colony of Hong Kong, in order to answer the question, what makes a country wealthy or poor. He never really answers the question, but long the way he is always entertaining and occasionally insightful. The book is marred, however, by O'Rourke's inability (or unwillingness) to refrain from periodic gratuitous swipes at anyone and everyone who is, or was, left of center on the political spectrum. These unnecessary reminders of his own set of biases limited my enjoyment in reading the book.

In the tradition of his contemporary classic Parliament of Whores, the man who The Wall Street Journal calls "the funniest writer in America" is back with Eat the Rich, in which he takes on the global economy. P. J. O'Rourke leads you on an hysterical whirlwind world tour from the "good capitalism" of Wall Street to the "bad socialism" of Cuba in search of the answer to an age-old question: "Why do some places prosper and thrive, while others just suck?" With stops in Albania, Sweden, Hong Kong, Moscow, and Tanzania, P.J. brings along his incomparable wit and finds hilarity wherever he goes.

.com What is it that makes one person rich and another poor? It's a tough question and not one generally suited to laughs, but P.J. O'Rourke--in the audio version of his ironic and insightful book, Eat the Rich--is a master at finding humor in the most unlikely places. Here he travels from Wall Street to Russia, Hong Kong to Cuba on an immensely entertaining quest for economic enlightenment. It's an educational journey wrapped in hilarity, which is especially enjoyable when heard in the surprisingly deep, resonant voice of the author himself. (Running time: three hours, two cassettes) --George Laney From Publishers Weekly Having chewed up and spat out the politically correct (All the Troubles in the World) and the U.S. government (Parliament of Whores), O'Rourke takes a more global tack. Here, he combines something of Michael Palin's Pole to Pole, a soupcon of Swift's A Modest Proposal and Keynesian garnish in an effort to find out why some places are "prosperous and thriving while others just suck." Stymied by the "puerile and impenetrable" prose of condescending college texts, O'Rourke set forth on a two-year worldwide tour of economic practice (or mal-). He begins amid the "moil and tumult" of Wall Street ("Good Capitalism") before turning to dirt-poor Albania, where, in an example of "Bad Capitalism," free market is the freedom to gamble stupidly. "Good Socialism" (Sweden) and "Bad Socialism" (Cuba) are followed by O'Rourke's always perverse but often perversely accurate take on Econ 101 ("microeconomics is about money you don't have, and macroeconomics is about money the government is out of"). Four subsequent chapters reportedly offer case studies of economic principles, except that Russia, Tanzania, Hong Kong and Shanghai all seem to prove that economic theory is just that. There's lots of trademark O'Rourke humor ("you can puke on the train," he says of a trip through Russia, "you can cook tripe on alcohol stoves and make reeking picnics of smoked fish and goat cheese, but you can't smoke"). There's also the feeling that despite (or maybe because of) his lack of credentials, he's often right. O'Rourke proves that money can be funny without being counterfeit. 150,000 first printing; \$150,000 ad/promo; 26-city author tour. (Sept.) FYI: Also available as a Random House audio, \$18 Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In his latest, humorist O'Rourke (The Enemies List, LJ 4/15/96) sets out to explain economics, a discipline he says is little understood because it is (a) complex and (b) boring. As if to prove these points, when O'Rourke, normally a funny guy, goes nose-to-nose with hard-core economics things get complicated and, well, a little boring. He atones, though, with loopy observations about some of the have and have-not countries he visited in his research for the book. On Russia's similarity to the United States: "To an American used to cute, fussy little Western Europe, Russia is like mail from home. News that your dog died, maybe, but news from home nevertheless." And on Tanzanian wildlife: "The Cape Buffalo is just a cow, but a gigantic and furious one?the bovine as superhero, the thing that fantasizing Herefords wish would burst upon the scene between feed lot and Wendy's." Dull patches aside, this is not your father's

economics text?it's way more fun. Recommended for all public libraries.-?Jim G. Burns, Ottumwa, IACopyright 1998  
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