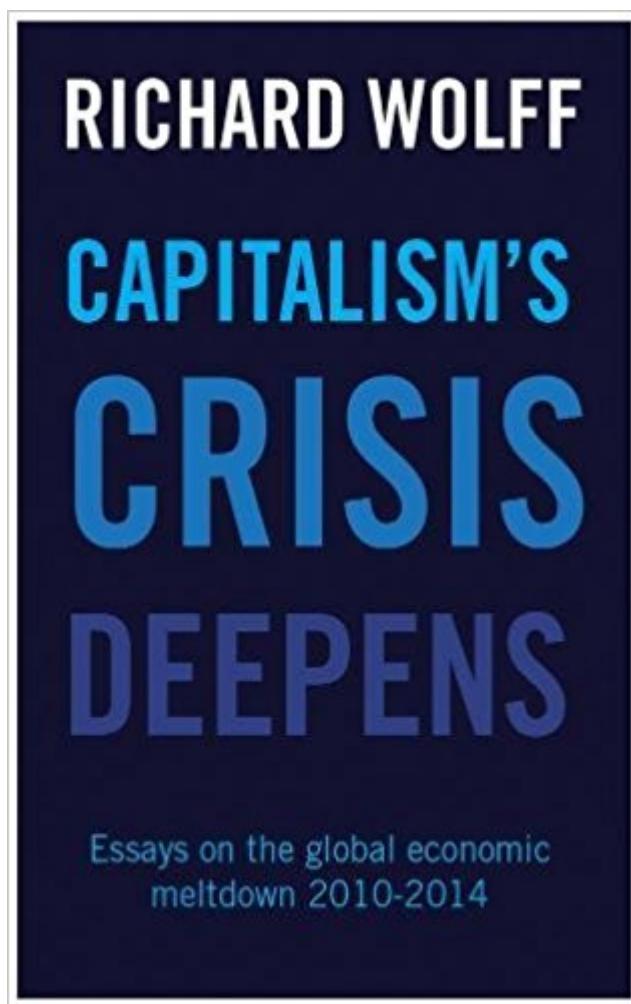


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Capitalism's Crisis Deepens: Essays On The Global Economic Meltdown



Synopsis

Praise for Richard Wolff and Democracy at Work: "Richard Wolff's constructive and innovative ideas suggest new and promising foundations for much more authentic democracy and sustainable and equitable development, ideas that can be implemented directly and carried forward. A very valuable contribution in troubled times." •Noam Chomsky "Richard Wolff is the leading socialist economist in the country. This book is required reading for anyone concerned about a fundamental transformation of the ailing capitalist economy!" •Cornel West "Bold, thoughtful, transformative-a powerful and challenging vision that takes us beyond both corporate capitalism and state socialism. Richard Wolff at his best!" •Gar Alperovitz While most mainstream commentators view the crisis that provoked the Great Recession as having passed, these essays from Richard Wolff paint a far less rosy picture. Drawing attention to the extreme downturn in most of capitalism's old centers, the unequal growth in its new centers, and the resurgence of a global speculative bubble, Wolff in his uniquely accessible style makes the case that the crisis should be grasped not as a passing moment, but as an evolving stage in capitalism's history. Richard Wolff is Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Visiting Professor at the New School in New York. Wolff's recent work has concentrated on analyzing the causes and alternative solutions to the global economic crisis. His groundbreaking book Democracy at Work: A Cure for Capitalism inspired the creation of Democracy at Work, a nonprofit organization dedicated to showing how and why to make democratic workplaces real.

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Customer Reviews

Richard D. Wolff: Richard D. Wolff is Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Visiting Professor at the New School University in New York. Wolff's recent work has concentrated on analyzing the causes and alternative solutions to the global economic crisis. His groundbreaking book *Democracy at Work: A Cure for Capitalism* inspired the creation of Democracy at Work, a nonprofit organization dedicated to showing how and why to make democratic workplaces real.

One of the best books I've read in a long time. So many good points made it's hard to summarize - but a few: "Capitalism's new contradiction: It can no longer easily use deficits and rising debt to prevent economic crises from becoming social crises. Yet politicians fear to tax corporations and the rich, whose money now makes or breaks political careers. Hence, governments everywhere impose austerity on their people." "Employers and the rich profited further by getting Washington to lower their taxes. They then lent at interest to the government what they no longer needed to pay in taxes. After all, the government needed to borrow precisely because it had stopped taxing corporations and the rich at the rates of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. Business and the rich happily financed a political system that converted their tax obligations into secure, well-rewarded loans to the government instead." "Blame-the-government ideology supports capitalism in another way. By portraying government as wasteful, incompetent, corrupt, power mad, and oppressive, it strives to establish another 'commonsense' idea. Government should be kept economically weak: Keep its spending down, its budget balanced, or else in debt to capitalists and the rich (main government creditors). Limit the taxes it can levy, the regulations it can impose, and so on. Hobble the government while painting it as a negative social force, not to be trusted. Corrupt the politicians with the resources only corporations and the rich have and spend for such purposes, and then denounce that corruption as the government's fault. Turn workers away from engagement in, respect for, or even interest in politics. Disgusted and alienated, many workers withdraw, leaving the political arena to the capitalists and the rich to buy and shape." "Awesome - buy it, read it, share it - then get angry & start a revolution."

This is an excellent discussion of economic issues currently. Dr. Wolff has the ability to make complex issues understandable. I have followed him for a number of years and think this is one of his best efforts. It helps to clarify the current commentary of socialism. Read this and it will be

understandable.

I am still reading this book. It presents a sharp critique of capitalism. I am reminded of a friend who noted to me many years ago, capitalism is a very bad system---until you consider the alternatives. The system the author presents as far as I have gotten in the book (half way through) is to have the workers run the companies. I really do not think this will work. My counter would be to have the government prevent the excesses of our current system, as was done in the FDR era.

Follow Dr. Wolff on YouTube at Democracy at Work.

A very good statement on the problems of capitalism, its limitations and a need to find a better economic system for our country

A extremely thoughtful book!!

Good book.

According to the author, capitalism is the cause of our economic problems. The middle class is in debt trying to retain a lifestyle they enjoyed in the past. All the money is going to banks, corporations and the wealthy. Instead of taxing the wealthy, the government borrows from the wealthy to pay its bills and then pays interest to the wealthy. Many in the middle class are falling below the poverty line. There are mass foreclosures and bankruptcies, all while the rich are getting richer. Corporations are taking their factories to countries where wages are low, leaving thousands unemployed. The author's solution isn't marxism-been there, done that-and it doesn't work. He has a better solution. The workers should own the companies they work for. One benefit of that is the companies would stay in the US. Policies would be made by the workers. Wages and salaries would be fair. Hours worked and overtime would be in control of the workers. This is similar to profit-sharing, which is being advocated by presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. I only have one question: HOW is this to be achieved? Corporations aren't just going to hand themselves over to the workers. The plan is impossible barring some sort of revolution, and people in the US are too preoccupied to revolt about anything.

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