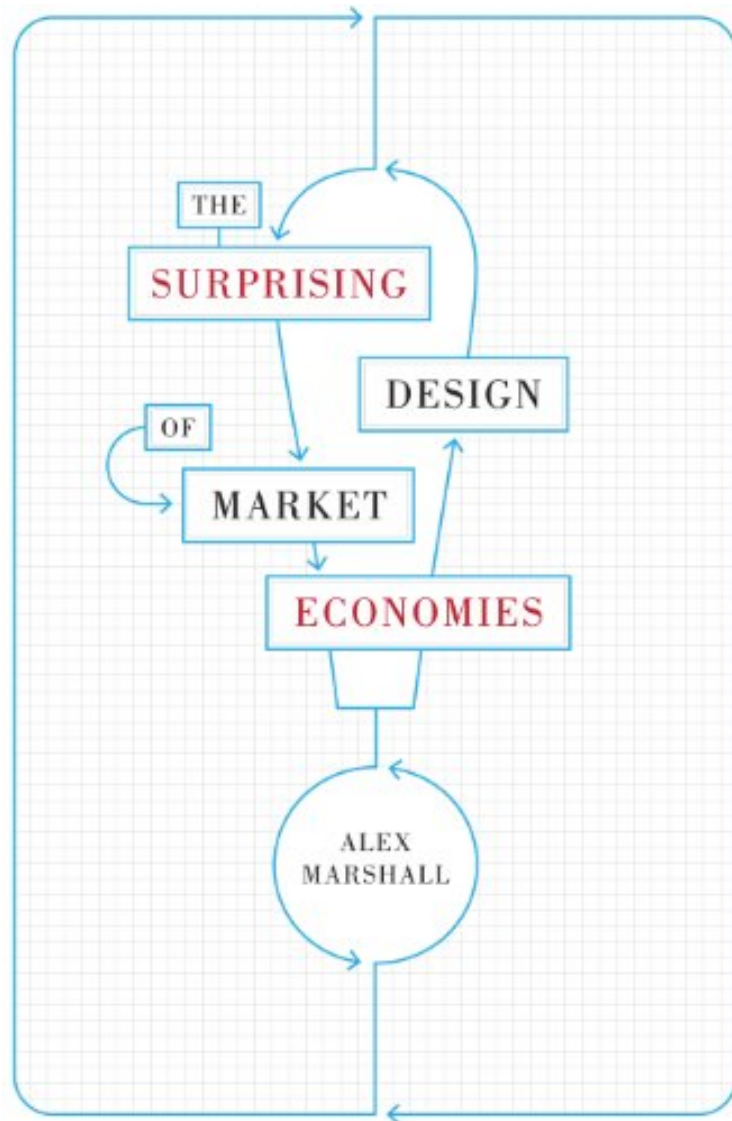


The Surprising Design of Market Economies (Constructs)

Alex Marshall

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Alex Marshall : The Surprising Design of Market Economies (Constructs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Surprising Design of Market Economies (Constructs):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Required -- especially for those in CongressBy Richard BolanThis is a wonderful book! I think it is an excellent antidote to those who are ideologically committed to the wonders of the free market. We live in a corporatist market controlled by oligopolies in strategic areas: food, energy, retailing, media. Marshall does a great critique of this notion and also demonstrates that beneficial alternatives exist (such as cooperatives). The book also does a good job of demonstrating that a free market depends heavily on government -- not only for judicial and peace keeping services but also for infrastructure. A business cannot thrive located in a

swamp at the end of a dirt road. I think any present and potential politicians should be required to read this. Prominent book reviewers -- such as the New York Times -- should give this much more prominent attention. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He puts this jabber about too much government in perspective ...By B. ViaHe puts this jabber about too much government in perspective. We are a mixed economy and markets have the limited virtue of needing government to help them be reasonable and effective. It puts those that abide by Adam Smith's invisible hand in perspective as we do not trade in a woods but we trade in a governed world of trade. Without governments facilitating, we have nothing, no market, no economic growth. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Surprising it isBy CustomerI'd suggest "Capitalism and Government Are Friends After All", an article on Bloomberg that led me to this book, for a sample, of the subject matter. Marshall's book is a real step outside the standard two-sided American political/economic argument, and into the broader field of what an economy could be. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did; you won't think the same way about markets again.

The "free market" has been a hot topic of debate for decades. Proponents tout it as a cure-all for just about everything that ails modern society, while opponents blame it for the very same ills. But the heated rhetoric obscures one very important, indeed fundamental, fact: markets don't just run themselves; we create them. Starting from this surprisingly simple, yet often ignored or misunderstood fact, Alex Marshall takes us on a fascinating tour of the fundamentals that shape markets and, through them, our daily economic lives. He debunks the myth of the "free market," showing how markets could not exist without governments to create the structures through which we assert ownership of property, real and intellectual, and conduct business of all kinds. Marshall also takes a wide-ranging look at many other structures that make markets possible, including physical infrastructure ranging from roads and railroads to water systems and power lines; mental and cultural structures such as common languages and bodies of knowledge; and the international structures that allow goods, services, cash, bytes, and bits to flow freely around the globe. Sure to stimulate a lively public conversation about the design of markets, this broadly accessible overview of how a market economy is constructed will help us create markets that are fairer, more prosperous, more creative, and more beautiful.