

Who's the Fairest of Them All?: The Truth about Opportunity, Taxes, and Wealth in America

Stephen Moore

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THE TRUTH ABOUT
OPPORTUNITY,
TAXES, AND WEALTH
IN AMERICA

STEPHEN MOORE

WITH A FOREWORD BY GLENN HUBBARD

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Stephen Moore : Who's the Fairest of Them All?: The Truth about Opportunity, Taxes, and Wealth in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who's the Fairest of Them All?: The Truth about Oppportunity, Taxes, and Wealth in America:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Lots of facts and figures, sloppy editing and proof reading. By David M. Rosenberg In arguing the case for supply-side economics and lower tax rates, the book brings a lot of useful and interesting statistics, building them into a cogent case. The many tables, charts, and graphs are much welcomed, and

illustrate the book's points nicely. Moore's writing is not particularly eloquent - not that it aims to be, since his case rests primarily on the facts. What is distressing, however, is the utter lack of proofing or editing in this relatively short text (122 pages). These errors are not limited to mere misspellings or other nuisances that have little impact on the book's argument. For example, on page 70, in arguing the importance of small businesses as employers, Moore states that "Small businesses create 70 percent of new jobs." Yet the citation is an unfinished footnote which reads "citation needed: 70% of new jobs small business" - a note the author left to himself while writing the book reminding himself to research this point. Very, very sloppy to leave that in the final version of the book. Another similarly sloppy mistake is found on page 102. Here Moore cites the reduction of income taxes in the 1920s and parallel rise in tax revenue as proof of the validity of supply-side economics. But in the chart he uses to illustrate, the figures are all mislabeled: tax revenue is shown as the tax rate, and vice versa. According to the chart in the book, Calvin Coolidge made an unprecedented tax hike rather than dramatic tax cuts. Again, very sloppy and just one more example of the lack of editing.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Right On By Tominator I would say that my Economics degree earned in 1963 was very timely as it fit right in with Kennedy's proposals. I was also a democrat at the time. Changed to republican in 1976 when the idiot Carter was nominated for president. I also lived in California from 1968-1974 and benefitted from Reagan's time as governor. I had an easy time of following the discussion and certainly agree with the conclusions. Now to get Trump's tax plan passed. Too bad the Dems are blind to what happened in the 60's. Actually, it is just a matter of the Dems learning how to communicate to what was their base how the new tax plan benefits everyone and a larger pie for everyone.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Opportunity versus Envy By Dennis Poindexter Subtitled The Truth about Opportunity, Taxes, and Wealth in America, this thin book, not much more than a pamphlet; think Common Sense; takes to task the now popular contentions that for U.S. society to be fair, all income must be redistributed. He starts out quoting a short story by none other than Kurt Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron" from Welcome to the Monkey House, wherein all persons are made equal: the beautiful and handsome must wear masks; the strong must be saddled with weights and so on, so that everyone is equal. Mr. Moore points out that this seems to be the ideal of Barack Obama, where everyone is to have the same amount of money. He goes on presenting arguments accompanied with graphs showing everyone in our society is much better off than formerly. He even compares the values shown in a Sears catalog of 1975 to the catalog of 2000, showing the amount of hours work needed to buy a specific item then as against now. He shows how free countries are healthier and wealthier and point out that citizens of the U.S. have it better than almost everyone else. He goes on to reveal who actually pays taxes; the poor pay none to very little while the wealthiest pay large percentages of the total taxes paid. He also covers four periods in the twentieth century when taxes were reduced, giving higher actual taxes being paid as the tax rate went down. This is the crux of his book: lower tax rates encourage investment of capital into productive uses and actually result in much higher amounts of tax being collected. When tax rates are raised, the rich or whoever else can afford to do it, put their money into tax-free bonds or send it overseas where it doesn't do our country any good. Of course, the liberals would just insist on doing away with tax shelters and making it illegal to send money overseas. In reading this book, he was preaching to the choir to me. I already knew of all his perfectly valid, reasonable and logical arguments. Liberals on the other hand would probably say this is all lies and would not accept any of it. Mr. Moore neglects to mention a large factor in wanting to tax the rich and that is envy. Liberals, even those who would accept these arguments would still insist on taxing the rich far more because they deserve to be punished for being rich. RATING: 4.5

President Obama has declared that the standard by which all policies and policy outcomes are judged is fairness. He declared in 2011 that "we've sought to ensure that every citizen can count on some basic measure of security. We do this because we recognize that no matter how responsibly we live our lives, any one of us, at any moment, might face hard times, might face bad luck, might face a crippling illness or a layoff." And that, he says, is why we have a social safety net. He says that returning to a standard of fairness where anyone can get ahead through hard work is the "issue of our time." And perhaps it is. This book explores what it means for our economic system and our economic results to be "fair." Does it mean that everyone has a fair shot? Does it mean that everyone gets the same amount? Does it mean the government can assert the authority to forcibly take from the successful and give to the poor? Is government supposed to be Robin Hood determining who gets what? Or should the market decide that? The surprising answer: nations with free market systems that allow people to get ahead based on their own merit and achievement are the fairest of them all.

About the Author Stephen Moore is senior economics writer for the Wall Street Journal editorial page and a member of the editorial board. He is also an economic commentator for CNBC TV and Fox News Channel, where he appears daily commenting on economic, fiscal policy, and political issues of the day. His most recent books include Return to Prosperity: How America Can Regain its Economic Superpower Status (Threshold, 2011).