

Book Review

Editor's Note

Our policy is to review all books which are either sent to us or in our opinion are useful to our readers.

Ornstein, Allan C., *Excellence Vs. Equality : Can Society achieve both Goals ?*; 2016, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, New York, USA, pp. 168, Price US\$ 132

This is must read for anyone concerned with fairness, social justice and/or giving inequality in India or around the world, as we are becoming two nations- "Job makers vs Workers".

Inequality fosters economic growth by serving as an incentive for those who exhibit excellence in their field of endeavor. Those with latent intelligence and / or aptitude rise to the top and are entitled to make huge sums of money whereby lesser individuals fall to a wayside and land at the bottom of the pyramid.

In democracy, generally it is believed that a social contract is supposed to exist between the people and their government. Therefore, Government programs and government regulation of finance and industry are necessary. Implementation of minimum wage, literacy for all, legislation of equal pay for women, train unskilled workers and retrain laid-off workers. In fact, inequality tends to reflect inequality of opportunity and in turn less intergenerational mobility. Concentration of wealth also leads to decline in meritocracy. There is a growing need to tax the rich and super rich to help pay for social security , education and other social program. The growing division in society, between rich and poor, is fuelled by "Volatile side" of modern life – Technology, media and globalization. What is important is that growth and prosperity to trickle down from top to bottom.

There is no perfect sorting out process to determine individual performance or merit – and how to distribute rewards. Even if a society produced perfect equality, and thus eliminate all the advantages of privileged heredity and wealth, it will still inevitability favour certain skills and talents over others.

There is a potential trade-off between two socially valued goals (Excellence vs equality) and the strategies to address them jointly as well as the consequence of failing to do so. Technological advances are trimming middle class jobs – while venture capitalists chose technological and

Whatever a society need is more viable options for success more diverse and decent jobs for graduates and greater recognition of individual differences and human potential. Primary focus should be on excellence, but needs to be diversity and recognition of various forms of excellence. The notion of excellence should begin with children for they are the next generation of inventors, innovators, dreamers, athletes and artists. Talent is universal, but opportunity and mobility are not. A democratic society needs to provide opportunities for children of ordinary people in order to maximize its human resources and to foster its growth and prosperity.

People perceive and define excellence and equality in different ways. In a society where there is a great inequality in different ways. In a Society where there is great inequality and difference in wealth and power, education cannot overcome such wide variations of birth and home background. The best we can hope, that society will find method to limit the effects of hereditary satisfaction and encourage individual difference in ability and talent to emerge in all phases and pursuits of life. Its very difficult. It requires different policies and laws. Each and Every Society must work out policies, based on what it views as fair and just and best for its people, in order to make full use of its human resources and support human rights among its citizens.

Very well written book, which provides an engaging and thoughtful perspective for social action. Author concluded that performance and reward should be based on people serving and helping the common good and common purpose, not a free market or survival of the fittest mentality.

This book is must for each and every library of all educational institutions. Good for students, media persons, reformers, economists, researchers, philosophers or anyone concerned with fairness and / or growing inequality in or around the world. Allan Ornstein has worked remarkably for the society. He has given grey area to think and explore about questions related to the wealth and class; innovation and technology and excellence and equality. Last but not the least I must thank to Publisher "Routledge" for bringing out this book and presenting it to the academic world offer introspection and amendment.

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Manju Agarwal

Lack, Simon; *Wall Street: Pot Holes*; 2016, Wiley India Pvt Ltd, Delhi, India, pp. 241, Price ₹ 499

This book is a result of togetherness of works of five authors with the goal in mind, of "putting Investors First and there by aiding better outcomes", namely Kevin Brolley, John Burke, Bob Centrella and David Pasi. All shared a common vision that investing should be simpler, cheaper and devoid of free – laden traps. While the financial services industry is full of good people, but there are too many clients who received less than a fair deal. Most of us buy financial products and services with the knowledge of an amateur and we are often vulnerable to an unscrupulous advisor.

Most people either don't have the time or the ability to do their own financial planning or manage their own money. Some advisors, are not professionals, and those advisors may be called "Potholes of Wall Street". But with efforts, consumer of financial services can avoid the pot holes and find a professional to help him use the advise given in chapter eight of this book. Wall Street Pot holes is intended to provide information and tools to allow clients to take greater control of their finances. Simon Lack and other contributors shared insights derived from many years of experience as a successful risk manager and investor.

Wall Street Pot holes provides guidance beneficial to both the seasoned investor as well as those new to the filed . This book is easy to read and understand. It is a must for each and every library. In short, this book is for people at large. At the end, I would like to thank and appreciate publisher "Wiley India" for bringing out this beautiful small book in the academic world for investor (big or small). Even the pricing of the book is also very reasonable and within the reach of a common man.

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Kolodko, Gregorz W.; *Whither the World: The Political Economy of the Future (Volume II)*; 2014, Patgrave Mac Millan, Hampshive (UK) and New York (USA), pp. 450, Price ₹ 75

Life is a celebration for those who realise that every unfolding moment of the day as a learning. Its experience makes us someone who can overcome our fears, by acquainting ourselves with the unknown. Talent can be earned with the curiosity of a child and lost with scathing criticism. Unlike Hitler's verdict of fear's victory over love, fear would never win over love and/or if it does life would be lifeless. For, Passion would continue to ignite the flames of the impossible, innovating life and its meaning for everyone in most incredible manner that mankind has ever believed or felt, transcending every possible limitation that the human mind can perceive or the nature can create. Life has a lot to offer for those who with open arms welcome its beauty and caresses of its warmth. Not many of us really live, with systems that surround us and in our race to be better than others, we are converted into machines or robots that churn out so called dutiful outcomes so tied with our responsibilities. Responsibilities to ourselves in our roles, to our near and dear ones; to our society and to our nation. Lost in the daily humdrum we lose ourselves and with every passing moment fail to realize, recognize or warm up to joys of lifelike the early morning sunshine or for the spring that welcomes us every new year or for the summer that makes us sweat or for the rains that makes us romantic or for the winter that makes us shiver.

Life is too short to be wasted on procrastinating, every moment is to be lived enjoyed to the fullest. Chances are limited for oneself. For one has only one life. Time is indeed of essence. The past is to remembered to overcome our mistakes, the present to be lived and the future to be dreamt. One may wonder what has all this to do with politics and economics or how the world withers.

Basu, Kaushik; *Doing Business 2016 : Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency*; October 2015, Thirteenth Edition, The World bank, Washigton DC, USA, pp. 348, Price US\$ 35

Over the 13 years since its inception the Doing Business report has become one of the world's most influential policy publications. It is an annual report on the state of health of economies based on detailed diagnostics not of the relatively more visible features (such as growth) and various macroeconomic parameters (such as the public debt) but of underlying and embedded characteristics – such as the regulatory system, the efficacy of the bureaucracy and the nature of business governance. An economy's scores on Doing Business indicators are somewhat akin to a measure of concentrations of various proteins and minerals in the human blood. They may not seem important to the lay observer, but they have huge long-run implications for an economy's health, performance and growth.

Since 2003 Doing Business has been publishing annual quantitative data on the main regulatory constraints affecting domestic small and medium-size enterprises throughout their life cycle. This year's report presents data for 189 economies and aggregates information from 10 areas of business regulation.

A quick look at the list of economies at the top of the ease of doing business ranking reveals that the best 30 performers are not those with little regulation but those with good rules that allow efficient and transparent functioning of businesses and markets while protecting the public interest. OECD high income economies have the best score on average, yet there are good practices in business regulation in every region.

The report finds that 85 developing economies implemented 169 business reforms during the past year, compared with 154 reforms the previous year. High-income economies carried out an additional 62 reforms, bringing the total for the past year to 231 reforms in 122 economies around the world.

The majority of the new reforms during the past year were designed to improve the efficiency of regulations, by reducing their cost and complexity, with the largest number of improvements made in the area of Starting a Business, which measures how long it takes to obtain a permit for starting a business and its associated processing costs. A total of 45 economies, 33 of which were developing economies, undertook reforms to make it easier for entrepreneurs to start a business. India, for example, made significant improvements by eliminating the minimum capital requirement and a business operations certificate, saving entrepreneurs an unnecessary procedure and five days' wait time. Kenya also made business incorporation easier by simplifying pre-registration procedures, reducing the time to incorporate by four days.

Analysis of the Doing Business data for the past 12 years shows encouraging signs of convergence toward best practices, as lower-income economies have improved more in the areas measured by the report than high-income economies. Among the areas measured by the report, starting a business has seen the most improvements. Since its launch in 2003 the Doing Business report has inspired hundreds of regulatory reforms

System and a brief overview about its regulators. The articles enumerate steps needed to be taken to strengthen the system to ensure equitable growth for all including reforming financial system regulations in India by implementing the proposals of FSLRC, maintaining a balance between statutory regulations and economic growth, building stronger and more vibrant capital markets, integrating India's financial system with rest of the world and improving financing for SMEs. In the next article, Sharma and Chandhiok summarises key chapters of Volume I of the findings and recommendations of the report submitted by the Financial System Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC). In the subsequent article titled *The Global Financial System, Technological Revolution and Financial Crisis : Policy implication for India*", Kaul throws lights on the nature of finance and interlinkages of global financial markets with the technological revolution, international financial crisis and studies its policy implications on India. Tyagi in his next article discusses Indian Banking current structure and related legal aspects. Author also analyses the effectiveness of Reserve Bank of India as a regulator of the banking system in past two decades and the effectiveness of the banking regulations in India in preventing frauds. Tandon and Jaisinghani in their article on *Implementation of Basel III in India : Issues and Challenges* examines efficacy of Basel norms in strengthening the banking system. Mishra on the similar lines, describes the frameworks of Basel I, II and III, identifies credit risk as a key banking risk and regulatory development to mitigate it through the evolution of Basel guidelines in the Indian banking system in his article on *Credit Risk Management Practices : Public Sector Banks in India*.

Priya in her article titled *Central Banks and Financial regulatory Architecture : A comparative study of Eurozone and India* provides an insight into the European Banking System and its regulations while critically comparing with the Indian Financial System. Though the reformation process has identified the crucial role that the central banks have to play in the financial stability, but there is a difference in the approaches towards the possible role of central banks in both Eurozone and India. Rohit in his article examines the usefulness of Basel II in preventing any future banking crisis. In the next article, Mishra elucidates on reasons as to why regulators be merged so as to provide a robust and aligned system to the Indian Citizen. Purohit, Pandey and Pant examine the issue of old age social security in India through their article entitled – *Pension Reforms and Government expenditure on Pension in India*. Though the Pension bills of the Government of India has taken a positive growth but poor financial literacy is a big bottleneck. Hence the need of the hour is financial literacy especially for the unorganized sector so that India can improve the social security. Mishra discusses the challenges before the Indian Industry in his article on *Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards : Issues and Challenges in India*. Author has highlighted the urgent need for a complete unison with IFRS, which will surely prove to be an optimum step in the domain of the financial reporting, provide it is planned and managed appropriately. Shanmugam advocates a look at the successful global debt markets to bring in the debt market reforms in India though his article on *Development of*