

Galbraith The Affluent Society Other Writings 1952 1967 American Capitalism The Great Crash 1929 The Affluent Society The New Industrial State

Over the past thirty years, the issue of economic inequality has emerged from the backwaters of economics to claim center stage in the political discourse of America and beyond—a change prompted by a troubling fact: numerous measures of income inequality, especially in the United States in the last quarter of the twentieth century, have risen sharply in recent years. Even so, many people remain confused about what, exactly, politicians and media persons mean when they discuss inequality. What does “economic inequality” mean? How is it measured? Why should we care? Why did inequality rise in the United States? Is rising inequality an inevitable feature of capitalism? What should we do about it? Inequality: What Everyone Needs to Know takes up these questions and more in plain and clear language, bringing to life one of the great economic and political debates of our age. Inequality expert James K. Galbraith has compiled the latest economic research on inequality and explains his findings in a way that everyone can understand. He offers a comprehensive introduction to the study of economic inequality, including its philosophical and theoretical origins, the variety of concepts in wide use, empirical measures and their advantages and disadvantages, competing modern theories of the causes and effects of rising inequality in the United States and worldwide, and a range of policy measures. The topic of economic inequality is going to become only more important as we approach the 2016 presidential elections. This latest addition to the popular What Everyone Needs to Know series from Oxford University Press will tell you everything you need to know to make informed opinions on this significant issue.

The Consumer Society Reader features a range of key works on the nature and evolution of consumer society. Included here is much-discussed work by leading critics such as Jean Baudrillard, Susan Bordo, Dick Hebdige, bell hooks, and Janice Radway. Also included is a full range of classics, such as Frankfurt School writers Adorno and Horkheimer on the Culture Industry; Thorstein Veblen’s oft-cited writings on “conspicuous consumption”; Betty Friedan on the housewife’s central role in consumer society; John Kenneth Galbraith’s influential analysis of the “affluent society”; and Pierre Bourdieu on the notion of “taste.” “Consumer society—the ‘air we breathe,’ as George Orwell has described it—disappears during economic downturns and political crises. It becomes visible again when prosperity seems secure, cultural transformation is too rapid, or environmental disasters occur. Such is the time in which we now find ourselves. As the roads glow with gas-guzzling SUVs and McMansions proliferate in the suburbs, the nation is once again asking fundamental questions about lifestyle. Has ‘luxury fever,’ to use Robert Frank’s phrase, gotten out of hand? Are we really comfortable with the ‘Brand Me’ mentality? Have we gone too far in pursuit of the almighty dollar, to the detriment of our families, communities, and natural environment? Even politicians, ordinarily impermeable to questions about consumerism, are voicing doubts... [and] polls suggest majorities of Americans feel the country has become too materialistic, too focused on getting and spending, and increasingly removed from long-standing non-materialist values.”—from the introduction by Douglas B. Holt and Juliet B. Schor This book provides an intellectual portrait of John Kenneth Galbraith, an institutional economist who examines the configuration of power by the clusters of mores that comprise institutions. Galbraith proposes an aggressive social democratic policy to achieve social and economic reform. This policy includes explicit recognition that the state must intervene to countervail the power of entrenched political economic interests and to provide generous support of the arts and letters to achieve the affirmation of humanity.

John Kenneth Galbraith’s classic study of the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

The New Nationalism and the Fourth American Revolution

The Predator State

Interviews with John Kenneth Galbraith

American Capitalism

The Concept of Countervailing Power

With searing wit and incisive commentary, John Kenneth Galbraith redefined America’s perception of itself in The New Industrial State, one of his landmark works. The United States is no longer a free-enterprise society, Galbraith argues, but a structured state controlled by the largest companies. Advertising is the means by which these companies manage demand and create consumer “need” where none previously existed. Multinational corporations are the continuation of this power system on an international level. The goal of these companies is not the betterment of society, but immortality through an uninterrupted stream of earnings. First published in 1967, The New Industrial State continues to resonate today.

Here, in a single volume, are the documents, speeches, and letters that have forged American history, now updated with new content such as Trump’s inaugural address. Accompanied by interpretations of their significance by noted historian Richard D. Heffner and journalist Alexander Heffner, this book includes important documents such as: * The complete text of the Declaration of Independence * The complete Constitution of the United States * The Monroe Doctrine * The Emancipation Proclamation * Woodrow Wilson’s War Message to Congress * Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms” Speech * John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address * Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” Speech * Ronald Reagan’s Inaugural Addresses * Documents relating to September 11, 2001 and the Iraq War This edition has been expanded and updated to include a chapter on the Presidency of Donald Trump.

Galbraith’s classic on the “economics of abundance” is, in the words of the New York Times, “a compelling challenge to conventional thought.” With customary clarity, eloquence, and humor, Galbraith cuts to the heart of what economic security means (and doesn’t mean) in today’s world and lays bare the hazards of individual and societal complacency about economic inequity. While “affluent society” and “conventional wisdom” (first used in this book) have entered the vernacular, the message of the book has not been so widely embraced—reason enough to rediscover The Affluent Society. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 Wealth is not without its advantages, but it is also the enemy of understanding. The poor man has always had a clear understanding of his problem and its solution: he hasn’t enough and he needs more. The rich man can assume a much greater variety of ills and he will be less certain of their solution. #2 The first task is to see the way our economic attitudes are rooted in the poverty, inequality, and economic peril of the past. Then we must examine the devices and arguments by which we have managed to maintain an association with the older ideas, which stemmed from a world where nearly all were poor. #3 This essay is not an angry one. It does not lack in that beguiling modesty which is so much in fashion in social comment. It contains many negative thoughts, and they cannot but strike a discordant note in a world of positive thinking. #4 The problems of an affluent world that does not understand itself may be serious, but they are not as serious as those of a poor world where the simple exigencies of poverty preclude the luxury of misunderstanding.

A Short History of Financial Euphoria

Almost Everyone’s Guide to Economics

John Kenneth Galbraith: The Affluent Society & Other Writings 1952-1967 (LOA #208)

A Tenured Professor

What Everyone Needs to Know®

A book explaining the history of economics; including the powerful and vested interests which moulded the theories to their financial advantage; as a means of understanding modern economics.

A Study Guide for John Kenneth Galbraith’s “The Affluent Society,” excerpted from Gale’s acclaimed Nonfiction Classics for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Nonfiction Classics for Students for all of your research needs.

In his new introduction to this classic text on political economy, Galbraith reasserts the validity of the core thesis of American Capitalism: The trade union remains an equalizing force in the labor markets, and the chain store is the best answer to the market power of big food companies. This work remains an essential guidepost of American mores as well as that as of the American economy.

Presents the original report on poverty in America that led President Kennedy to initiate the federal poverty program

The Anatomy of Power

The Good Society

Self-Control and Well-Being in the United States and Britain Since 1950

Whence It Came, Where It Went

The Scotch

Are we now, or have we ever been, a nation? As this century comes to a close, debates over immigration policy, racial preferences, and multiculturalism challenge the consensus that formerly grounded our national culture. The question of our national identity is as urgent as it has ever been in our history. Is our society disintegrating into a collection of separate ethnic enclaves, or is there a way that we can forge a coherent, unified identity as we enter the 21st century? In this “marvelously written, wide-ranging and thought-provoking” book, Michael Lind provides a comprehensive revisionist view of the American past and offers a concrete proposal for nation-building reforms to strengthen the American future. He shows that the forces of nationalism and the ideal of a trans-racial melting pot need not be in conflict with each other, and he provides a practical agenda for a liberal nationalist revolution that would combine a new color-blind liberalism in civil rights with practical measures for reducing class-based barriers to racial integration. A stimulating critique of every kind of orthodox opinion as well as a vision of a new “Trans-American” majority, The Next American Nation may forever change the way we think and talk about American identity. *New York Newsday*

In his memoirs, John Kenneth Galbraith recalls amusingly, even brilliantly, the important and low moments in his life, the men and women he met who were great, only interesting, entertaining or even absurd. Galbraith studied agriculture in his native Canada and agricultural economics at UC-Berkeley. He taught at the University of California, served briefly in FDR’s administration and went on to Harvard. In Cambridge, England, he discovered the new economics of John Maynard Keynes. During World War II in Washington, he held the key job of organizing and administering the system of wartime price controls. After the war, Galbraith directed the survey that interrogated former Nazi leaders to assess the effects of the air war on the German economy. He then worked for the State Department as administrator for economic affairs in the occupied countries and served as an editor of Fortune when the magazine employed some of the best writers around. Galbraith returned to Harvard in 1948 and wrote three of the most influential books on economics of his time, The Affluent Society, The New Industrial State and Economics and the Public Purpose. In these lively memoirs, the author relates all of this and more ï his two major political campaigns, with Adlai E. Stevenson for whom he was adviser and speech-writer, and John F. Kennedy, for whom he campaigned across the country; his years as ambassador in India; and his long opposition to the Vietnam war. And he shares the lessons learned from these experiences. (On every subject Mr. Galbraith is succinct and witty... The book is full of strong opinion and proceeds by the vehicle of anecdote... The serious business of the book... is to trace the steps of its author’s astonishingly varied and useful life... Mr. Galbraith’s vigor of expression, as well as an account of a period of gloom and psychotherapy, prevents the writing from ever sounding impersonal. That serious business is also to set the record straight ï on what his books were about and how he evolved his theory of The Affluent Society and The New Industrial State, as two of his most important works were named; on why the bombing of Germany during World War II was less than useless, why it was patently unnecessary to wage atomic warfare on Japan and why he came to be a dissenter on the war in Vietnam. On inflation. On the ïsecular priesthood’ that once presided at the State Department. And, enchantingly, on such movers and shakers he came to know well as the New Dealer Leon Henderson, Paul Baran (the most interesting economist I have ever known!), Bernard M. Baruch, Adlai E. Stevenson, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.ï Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, The New York Times (As a raconteur and a literary stylist, [Galbraith] stands with the best... As entertainment, the book is a total success. Its charm comes from the combination of Mr. Galbraith’s smooth comic timing and his not always charitable wit.ï James Fallows, The New York Times (Galbraith ranks with the most entertaining and provocative political writers in America in this century... Without Galbraith the political literature of our time would be far drearier.ï Gadis Smith, Foreign Affairs (Galbraith) has assembled a well-nigh complete record of what he has been up to, professionally at least, since leaving his family’s Ontario farm. The account is fascinating... The narrative... consistently holds the distinctive Galbraith style that makes all his books read like a nippy breeze.ï Geoffrey Colvin, Christian Science Monitor (‘Absorbing and irresistible.ï The New Yorker (An enjoyable book, full of fun, full of wisdom, and full of rare insights into the history of our times.ï The New Republic (A delightfully teeming book... Galbraith’s comic voice is a distinctive and durable literary achievement.ï Atlantic Monthly (A highly perceptive commentary on all our yesterdays... anecdotal, amusing, animated and above all, illuminating.ï John Barkham Reviews

This book revisits John Kenneth Galbraith’s The Affluent Society from the perspective of the background to, and causes of, the 2008 global economic crisis. Each chapter takes a major theme of his book, distils Galbraith’s arguments, and then discusses to what extent they cast light on current developments.

The legendary economist explains how a nation can remain both compassionate and fiscally sound, with ïcommon sense raised to the level of genius.ï This compact, eloquent book offers a blueprint for a workable national agenda that allows for human weakness without compromising a humane culture. Arguing that it is in the best interest of the United States to avoid excessive wealth and income inequality, and to safeguard the well-being of its citizens, he explores how the goal of a good society can be achieved in an economically feasible way. Touching on topics from regulation, inflation, and deficits to education, the environment, bureaucracy, and the military, Galbraith avoids purely partisan or rigid ideological politics; instead addressing practical problems with logic and well-thought-out principles. (‘Carefully reasoned... the pragmatically liberal Galbraith [argues] that both socialism and complete surrender to market forces are irrelevant as guides to public action.ï Publishers Weekly

The New Industrial State

The Great Crash, 1929

The Past as the Present

Money

The Challenge of Affluence

Typescript of ‘The Affluent Society,’ with Galbraith’s corrections and annotations.

This book revisits John Kenneth Galbraith’s classic text The Affluent Society in the context of the background to, and causes of, the global economic crisis that erupted in 2008. Each chapter takes a major theme of Galbraith’s book, distils his arguments, and then discusses to what extent they cast light on current developments, both in developed economies and in the economics discipline. The themes include: inequality, insecurity, inflation, debt, consumer behaviour, financialization, the economic role of government (‘social balance’), the power of ideas, the recurrent problems of capitalism and the huge challenges facing democratic governments in tackling them. Written in non-technical language, this book is accessible to students of economics and the social sciences as well as to those who would have read The Affluent Society and the general reader interested in contemporary affairs and public policy.

Since the 1940s Americans and Britons have experienced rising material abundance, but also a range of social and personal disorders, including family breakdown, addiction, crime, obesity, inequality, and economic insecurity. Avner Offer argues that well-being in these societies has lagged behind affluence, because they present an environment in which consistent choice is difficult to achieve over time and in which the capacity for personal and social commitment is undermined by the flow of novelty. This is then demonstrated in comparative studies of US and automobiles), and of personal relations (inter-personal regard, social status, heterosexual love, and parenthood). Drawing on the latest cognitive research, Offer provides a detailed and reasoned critique of modern consumer society, especially the assumption that freedom of choice necessarily maximizes individual and social well-being.

Galbraith wrote with an eloquence that burst the conventions of his discipline and won a readership none of his fellow economists could match. This volume gathers four of his key early works, the books that established him as one of the leading public intellectuals of the last century.

His Life, His Politics, His Economics

A History of Economics

The 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time

How Conservatives Abandoned the Free Market and Why Liberals Should Too

The Affluent Society

A leading economist discusses his theories on social disequilibrium and suggests ways of restoring the economic balance

Incisive and original, John Kenneth Galbraith wrote with an eloquence that burst the conventions of his discipline and won a readership none of his fellow economists could match. This Library of America volume, the first devoted to economics, gathers four of his key early works, the books that established him as one of the leading public intellectuals of the last century. In American Capitalism, Galbraith exposes with great panache the myth of American free-market competition. The idea that an impersonal market sets prices and wages, and maintains balance between supply and demand, remained so vital in American economic thought, Galbraith argued, because oligopolistic American businessmen never acknowledged their collective power. Also overlooked was the way that groups such as unions and regulatory agencies react to large oligopolies by exerting countervailing power—a concept that was the book’s lasting contribution. The Great Crash, 1929 offers a gripping account of the most legendary (and thus misunderstood) financial collapse in American history, as well as an inquiry into why it led to sustained depression. Galbraith posits five reasons: unusually high income inequality; a bad, overleveraged corporate structure; an unsound banking system; unbalanced foreign trade; and, finally, “the poor state of economic intelligence.” His account is a trenchant analysis of the 1929 crisis and a cautionary tale of ignorance and hubris among stock-market players; not surprisingly, the book was again a bestseller in the wake of the 2008 economic collapse. In The Affluent Society, the book that introduced the phrase “the conventional wisdom” into the American lexicon, Galbraith takes on a shibboleth of free-market conservatives and Keynesian liberals alike: the paramount importance of production. For Galbraith, the American mania for production continued even in an era of unprecedented affluence, when the basic needs of all but an impoverished minority had easily been met. Thus the creation of new and spurious needs through advertising—leading to skyrocketing consumer debt, and eventually a private sector that is glutted at the expense of a starved public sector. The New Industrial State stands as the most developed exposition of Galbraith’s major themes. Examining the giant postwar corporations, Galbraith argued that the “technostructure” necessary for such vast organizations—comprising specialists in operations, marketing, and R&D—is primarily concerned with reducing risk, not with maximizing profits; it perpetuates stability through “the planning system.” The book concludes with a prescient analysis of the “educational and scientific estate,” which prefigures the “information economy” that has emerged since the book was published. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation’s literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America’s best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

A collection of interviews that document the long career of the Canadian-born, influential economist and political philosopher

A progressive economist challenges popular conservative-minded economic practices, in a scathing critique of Reagan-Bush policies that contends that the political right is misrepresenting the consequences of free-market and free-trade ideals. 50,000 first printing.

American Capitalism / The Great Crash, 1929 / The Affluent Society / The New Industrial State

The Human Agenda

A Study Guide for John Kenneth Galbraith’s “The Affluent Society”

Inequality

The Culture of Contentment

The world-renowned economist offers “dourly irreverent analyses of financial debacle from the tulip craze of the seventeenth century to the recent plague of junk bonds.” —The Atlantic. With incomparable wisdom, skill, and wit, world-renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith traces the history of the major speculative episodes in our economy over the last three centuries. Exposing the ways in which normally sane people display reckless behavior in pursuit of profit, Galbraith asserts that our “notoriously short” financial memory is what creates the conditions for market collapse. By recognizing these signs and understanding what causes them we can guard against future recessions and have a better hold on our country’s (and our own) financial destiny. 100 Best Non Fiction Books has its origins in the recent 2 year-long Observer serial which every week featured a work of non fiction). It is also a companion volume to McCrum’s very successful 100 Best Novels published by Galileo in 2015. The list of books starts in 1611 with the King James Bible and ends in 2014 with Elizabeth Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction. And in between, on this extraordinary voyage through the written treasures of our culture we meet Pepys’ Diaries, Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species, Stephen Hawking’s A Brief History of Time and a whole host of additional works.

In Economics in Perspective, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith presents a compelling and accessible history of economic ideas, from Aristotle through the twentieth century. Examining theories of the past that have a continuing modern resonance, he shows that economics is not a timeless, objective science, but is continually evolving as it is shaped by specific times and places. From Adam Smith’s theories during the Industrial Revolution to those of John Maynard Keynes after the Great Depression, Galbraith demonstrates that if economic ideas are to remain relevant, they must continually adapt to the world they inhabit. A lively examination of economic thought in historical context, Economics in Perspective shows how the field has evolved across the centuries. “Graceful and often witty” insights from the legendary economist, drawn from his most influential works (Library Journal). The Essential Galbraith includes key selections from the most important works of John Kenneth Galbraith, one of the most distinguished writers of our time—from The Affluent Society, the groundbreaking book in which he coined the term “conventional wisdom,” to The Great Crash, an unsurpassed account of the events that triggered America’s worst economic crisis. Galbraith’s new introductions place the works in their historical moment and make clear their enduring relevance for the new century. The Essential Galbraith will delight old admirers and introduce one of our most beloved writers to a new generation of readers. It is also an indispensable resource for scholars and students of economics, history, and politics, offering unparalleled access to the seminal writings of an extraordinary thinker.

A Life in Our Times

The Economists, Like Everyone Else, Must...

Summary of John Kenneth Galbraith’s The Affluent Society

The Consumer Society Reader

A Critical History

Money is nothing more than what is commonly exchanged for goods or services, so why has understanding it become so complicated? In Money, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith cuts through the confusions surrounding the subject to present a compelling and accessible account of a topic that affects us all. He tells the fascinating story of money, the key factors that shaped its development, and the lessons that can be learned from its history. He describes the creation and evolution of monetary systems and explains how finance, credit, and banks work in the global economy. Galbraith also shows that, when it comes to money, nothing is truly new—least of all inflation and fraud.

Proving that he is not a dupe of the administration, freshman Harvard Professor Montgomery Marvin sets academic teeth on edge when he moonlights as a corporate raider and donates his profits to charity. Reissue.

The life and times of America’s most celebrated economist, assessing his lessons-and warnings-for us today John Kenneth Galbraith’s books -- among them The Affluent Society and American Capitalism -- are famous for good reason. Written by a scholar renowned for energetic political engagement and irrepressible wit, they are models of provocative good sense that warn prophetically of the dangers of deregulated markets, war in Asia, corporate greed, and stock-market bubbles.

Galbraith’s work has also deeply—and controversially—influenced his own profession, and in Richard Parker’s hands his biography becomes a vital reinterpretation of American economics and public policy. Born and raised on a small Canadian farm, Galbraith began teaching at Harvard during the Depression. He was FDR’s “price czar” during the war and then a senior editor of Fortune before returning to Harvard and to fame as a bestselling writer. Parker shows how, from his early championing of Keynes to his acerbic analysis of America’s “private wealth and public squalor,” Galbraith regularly challenged prevailing theories and policies. And his account of Galbraith’s remarkable friendship with John F. Kennedy, whom he served as a close advisor while ambassador to India, is especially relevant for its analysis of the intense, dynamic debates that economists and politicians can have over how America should manage its wealth and power. This masterful chronicle gives color, depth, and meaning to the record of an extraordinary life.

In 1908, in Dunwich Township, a patch of rural southern Ontario that was more Scottish than much of Scotland, the renowned economist and public servant John Kenneth Galbraith was born. In 1963, Galbraith wrote “The Scotch,” a memoir of the tight (in every sense) community in which he was raised. Galbraith tells how the men were distinguished by the amount of land they’d accumulated, how hard they worked, how hard they drank, but mainly by how frugal they were. It was said that Codfish John McKillop was so economical that when he died and was being lowered into his grave, he lifted the cover of his coffin and handed out his clothes. Educated himself first at the one-room Willey School, where team sports were held to be “bad for a youngster,” and later at Dutton High School under the aegis of an incompetent teacher who believed in learning through terror, Galbraith raced through the early grades and left for the Ontario Agricultural College, en route, eventually, to Harvard. He may have left the community, but, it’s clear from this affectionate, if pointed, portrait, it never left him.

John Kenneth Galbraith

The Other America

The Essential Galbraith

Next American Nation

The Affluent Society Revisited

The world has become increasingly separated into the haves and have-nots. In The Culture of Contentment, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith shows how a contented class—not the privileged few but the socially and economically advantaged majority—defend their comfortable status at a cost. Middle-class voting against regulation and increased taxation that would remedy pressing social ills has created a culture of immediate gratification, leading to complacency and hampering long-term progress. Only economic disaster, military action, or the eruption of an angry underclass seem capable of changing the status quo. A groundbreaking critique, The Culture of Contentment shows how the complacent majority captures the political process and determines economic policy.

Economics in Perspective

The Nature of Mass Poverty

Social Imbalance and the Affluent Society

The Affluent Society and Other Writings, 1952–1967

A Documentary History of the United States (Revised and Updated)