



Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics

By P. J. O'Rourke

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In the tradition of his contemporary classic *Parliament of Whores*, the man who *The Wall Street Journal* calls "the funniest writer in America" is back with *Eat the Rich*, in which he takes on the global economy. P. J. O'Rourke leads you on an hysterical whirlwind world tour from the "good capitalism" of Wall Street to the "bad socialism" of Cuba in search of the answer to an age-old question: "Why do some places prosper and thrive, while others just suck?" With stops in Albania, Sweden, Hong Kong, Moscow, and Tanzania, P.J. brings along his incomparable wit and finds hilarity wherever he goes.

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Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics By P. J. O'Rourke Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A conservative, prosperous, American journalist gadding around the world laughing at all the ways less successful nations screw up their economy--this might not sound like the recipe for a great read, unless you're Rush Limbaugh, but if that journalist is P.J. O'Rourke you can be sure that you'll enjoy the ride even if you don't agree with the politics. Although *Eat the Rich* is subtitled *A Treatise on Economics*, O'Rourke spends relatively few pages tackling the complexities of monetary theory. He's much happier when flying from Sweden to Hong Kong to Tanzania to Moscow, gleefully recording every economic goof he can find. When he visits post-Communist Russia and finds a country that is as messed up by capitalism as it was by Communism, O'Rourke mixes jokes about black-market shoes with disturbing insights into a nation on the verge of collapse. P.J. O'Rourke is more than a humorist, he's an experienced international journalist with a lot of frequent-flyer miles, and this gives even his funniest riffs on the world's problems the ring of truth.

From Publishers Weekly

Having chewed up and spat out the politically correct (All the Troubles in the World) and the U.S. government (Parliament of Whores), O'Rourke takes a more global tack. Here, he combines something of Michael Palin's Pole to Pole, a soupcon of Swift's A Modest Proposal and Keynesian garnish in an effort to find out why some places are "prosperous and thriving while others just suck." Stymied by the "puerile and impenetrable" prose of condescending college texts, O'Rourke set forth on a two-year worldwide tour of economic practice (or mal-). He begins amid the "moil and tumult" of Wall Street ("Good Capitalism") before turning to dirt-poor Albania, where, in an example of "Bad Capitalism," free market is the freedom to gamble stupidly. "Good Socialism" (Sweden) and "Bad Socialism" (Cuba) are followed by O'Rourke's always perverse but often perversely accurate take on Econ 101 ("microeconomics is about money you don't have, and macroeconomics is about money the government is out of"). Four subsequent chapters reportedly offer case studies of economic principles, except that Russia, Tanzania, Hong Kong and Shanghai all seem to prove that economic theory is just that. There's lots of trademark O'Rourke humor ("you can puke on the train," he says of a trip through Russia, "you can cook tripe on alcohol stoves and make reeking picnics of smoked fish and goat cheese, but you can't smoke"). There's also the feeling that despite (or maybe because of) his lack of credentials, he's often right. O'Rourke proves that money can be funny without being counterfeit. 150,000 first printing; \$150,000 ad/promo; 26-city author tour. (Sept.) FYI: Also available as a Random House audio, \$18

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From Library Journal

In his latest, humorist O'Rourke (*The Enemies List*, LJ 4/15/96) sets out to explain economics, a discipline he says is little understood because it is (a) complex and (b) boring. As if to prove these points, when O'Rourke, normally a funny guy, goes nose-to-nose with hard-core economics things get complicated and, well, a little boring. He atones, though, with loopy observations about some of the have and have-not countries he visited in his research for the book. On Russia's similarity to the United States: "To an American used to cute, fussy little Western Europe, Russia is like mail from home. News that your dog died, maybe, but news from home nevertheless." And on Tanzanian wildlife: "The Cape Buffalo is just a cow, but a gigantic and furious one?the bovine as superhero, the thing that fantasizing Herefords wish would burst upon the scene between feed lot and Wendy's." Dull patches aside, this is not your father's economics text?it's way more fun. Recommended for all public libraries.

-?Jim G. Burns, Ottumwa, IA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eunice Bourque:

The experience that you get from Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics is a more deep you excavating the information that hide into the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read that because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this kind of Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics instantly.

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Patricia McGuire:

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