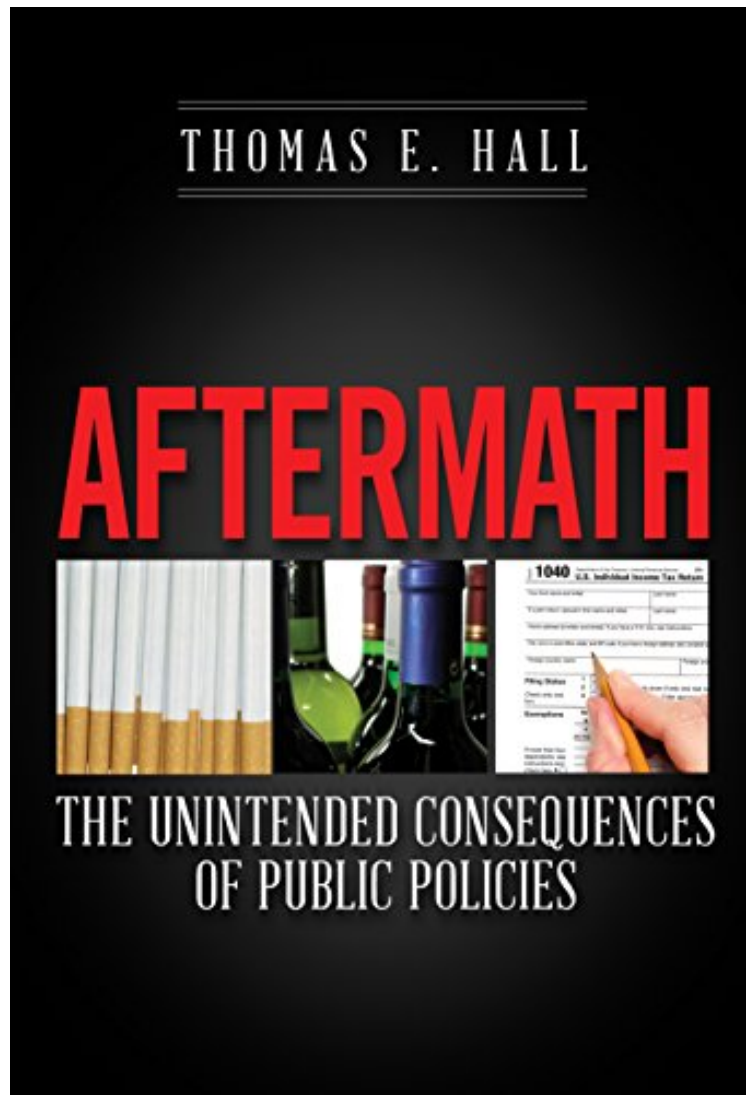


[FREE] Aftermath: The Unintended Consequences of Public Policies

Aftermath: The Unintended Consequences of Public Policies

Thomas E. Hall

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Consequences!?!?!.....We don't need no stinkin' consequences!By jbdmdExcellent review of unintended consequences using examples of laws that reached (and reach) far beyond the authors' intentions. Hall's choices of the income tax, minimum wage, cigarette taxes and prohibition are all succinct and yet very well referenced. The first three also underscore how underlying philosophy can override facts and intelligence while providing demagogic fodder for political canons. Buy several and give them to your friends

concerned with "fairness", "social justice", a "living wage" and "the public good". Of course, one must wonder, with several of today's policy issues: Are the negative consequences truly unintended. After all....."Never let a crisis go to waste". Hopefully the rate of obesity will not go up once the chocolate ration is increased.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exposing the damaging results of ill-conceived public policiesBy Jose A. TovarThomas Hall does excellent work in exposing the damaging results of ill-conceived policies regarding the income tax, minimum wage, cigarette tax, and alcohol prohibition. He describes how policies that began in regulating certain groups or products afterwards expanded over a long period of time to unpredictably (or predictably to those familiar with sound economics) to affect other areas of society. The book shows that policymakers cannot and do not have the necessary knowledge to control society's vices or promote economic progress, and the best thing that lawmakers can do is leave people alone to live their lives as they best can. Neither society nor the free market are perfect, but spending millions of dollars to put millions of people in prison for vices is disastrous public policy. Indeed, not very friendly to the public.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quick ReadBy Mark SutterIt was nice to have a collection of government boondoggles all in one place but if you're much of a history buff you probably won't learn much that you didn't already know. There were plenty of facts and graphs to back up the author's point of view which may help you if you have to argue any of the points. Overall, it was a quick read and somewhat informative.

Government policies created for one set of purposes almost always generate additional results that were not part of the original plan. Very often these unintended consequences are seriously adverse, and in some cases are so severe as to render the policy a failure.In *Aftermath*, noted economist Thomas Hall examines four major instances of significant unintended consequences, all of them negative, resulting from major public policies: the federal income tax, cigarette taxes, minimum wage laws, and alcohol prohibition. Each widespread, well known policy was instituted as a positive measure, but almost immediately gave rise to enormously damaging consequences and harmful side effects. What were these terrible consequences? Hall demonstrates how these policies played a significant role in creating America's vast welfare state, criminal activities, a bloated government hungry for more revenue, smuggling, a scarcity of jobs for teenagers and the working poor, corrupt public officials, overcrowded prisons, and much more. Not exactly what the originators had foreseen. Hall's exploration of these four iconic policies offers powerful optics for examining current and proposed policies, and he provides an overview of the new and emerging consequences of the Affordable Care Act, the Dodd-Frank Act, and the war on drugs.With the pace of government policymaking continuing unabated, Hall's insights on how to examine and minimize the potential outcomes of bureaucratic activity before they can potentially harm the public—in ways not intended or anticipated—are more necessary and vital than ever before.

About the AuthorThomas E. Hall is a Professor of Economics at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where he teaches classes on macroeconomics, business cycles, and the Great Depression. He received his BA from the University of Colorado, and his MA and PhD degrees from the University of California — Santa Barbara. He has written several articles in applied macroeconomics, and authored *Business Cycles: The Nature and Causes of Economic Fluctuations*; *The Great Depression: An International Disaster of Perverse Economic Policies* (with J.D. Ferguson); *The Rotten Fruits of Economic Controls and the Rise From the Ashes, 1965-1989*.