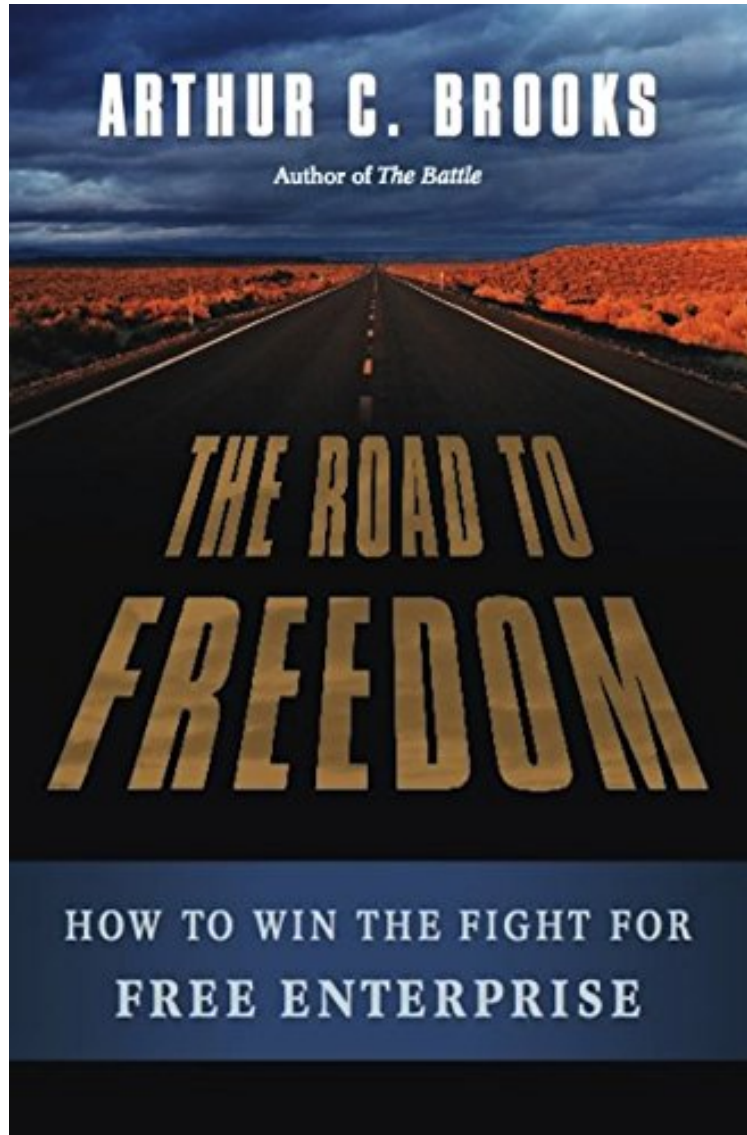


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The Road to Freedom: How to Win the Fight for Free Enterprise

Arthur C. Brooks

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Arthur C. Brooks : The Road to Freedom: How to Win the Fight for Free Enterprise before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to Freedom: How to Win the Fight for Free Enterprise:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Arthur Brooks Keeps It SimpleBy James M. BairdIt couldn't be more clear: if Americans behave like mature adults, things will get better.In an easy-to-read 174 pages (plus notes and index), Arthur Brooks calmly lays out the moral and economic case for limited government, thoughtful taxation, and true neighborliness. He is president of the American Enterprise Institute, so he brings some conservative spice to our current economic pickle.Brooks lays out the facts, with well-researched examples to prove his points. He finishes up

with some reasonable policy proposals straight out of the Free Marketer's handbook, such as means-testing for Social Security or lower taxes on investments. This book is non-partisan in a good sense, namely that it shows how we've all--left and right alike--stood by as our culture dissolved around us. His advice, if followed, would make life better for people, and would also make us better people. And this last point is the key to the book, namely that economics is not just another social science, it is a moral enterprise. Like a medieval apologist, Brooks defends the faith. In fact, he follows the general form of inquiry used by Thomas Aquinas and other defenders of the faith: begin with a list of objections, state the principle(s) involved, then answer the objections. A reasonable opponent of free markets might argue that such trade arrangements are at best amoral and very often immoral. Further, free markets are unfair. Finally, Good Samaritans have to clean up the wreckage caused by free markets. Brooks contends that Earned Success is the main driver of true human happiness. The sad fates of many lottery winners demonstrates this point: we value what we earn more highly than we value a random gift. And the effort it takes to earn something makes us better, doesn't it? A properly-regulated free market, therefore, is fairer than a managed one, and it produces the wealth that Good Samaritans use. Thus the objections are countered effectively, and the case for free enterprise is made. Good work. Unfortunately, this book will not get a serious public policy hearing anytime soon, and that's the problem with Brooks' approach. The best way to argue against the downward fiscal spiral we're in is calmly and reasonably, as Brooks does. Paul Ryan tried that method in the Vice Presidential debate late last fall, and was ridiculed by Vice President Biden, though Joe offered no coherent message of his own. That, sadly, is the state of the debate in 2013. Like the patient who won't listen to the doctor, we've decided things are just fine the way they are. So, read this book and put it away where you can find it in a few years, when the next bubble bursts. At that point, Arthur Brooks will look like a prophet. Perhaps, if we're lucky, the patient won't be so sick at that point that the cure will mean years of pain.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not very interested
By Strengthbuy Not very interested
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very enlightening while offering information that I was unaware of ...
By Gregory S. Very enlightening while offering information that I was unaware of and needs to be included in WWII history in schools

Entrepreneurship, personal responsibility, and upward mobility: These traditions are at the heart of the free enterprise system, and have long been central to America's exceptional culture. In recent years, however, policymakers have dramatically weakened these traditions--by exploding the size of government, propping up their corporate cronies, and trying to reorient our system from rewarding merit to redistributing wealth. In *The Road to Freedom*, American Enterprise Institute President Arthur C. Brooks shows that this trend cannot be reversed through materialistic appeals about the economic efficiency of capitalism. Rather, free enterprise requires a moral defense rooted in the ideals of earned success, equality of opportunity, charity, and basic fairness. Brooks builds this defense and demonstrates how it is central to understanding the major policy issues facing America today. The future of the free enterprise system has become a central issue in our national debate, and Brooks offers a practical manual for defending it over the coming years. Both a moral manifesto and a prescription for concrete policy changes, *The Road to Freedom* will help Americans in all walks of life translate the philosophy of free enterprise into action, to restore both our nation's greatness and our own well-being in the process.