

The Stakeholder Society

Bruce Ackerman, Anne Alstott

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*

Bruce Ackerman Anne Alstott



#355664 in eBooks 2008-10-01 2008-10-01File Name: B00BFCDM0W | File size: 30.Mb

Bruce Ackerman, Anne Alstott : The Stakeholder Society before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stakeholder Society:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy Deborah YoungbloodBrilliant, creative idea. If only there was political will to implement. Worth reading and helping to build momentum. I'm impressed.3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but flawedBy C. SearightThe book lays out an idea on how to setup funding to all young citizens so that everyone has capital for investing for their future. The idea, although well explained, is completely flawed and makes drastic and unreasonable assumptions about behavior and money. Assuming that individuals will respect money that is given to them, regardless of possible requirements to pay back

the money in the future, is to completely ignore past human behavior. To assume that money can quickly uplift one from poverty ignores that wealth is how we measure one's economic status. Money is but one component of wealth and it is the most volatile and easiest to lose (poor investment decisions to simply blowing the money on unnecessary items). There will always be poor and there will always be rich individuals. Nothing one does can prevent that. Even in communist countries there are significant differences in individual wealth and class differentiation. The book tries to address these issues as well as others, but simply assumes behavior will change. The behavior changes are drastic and unlikely. Again, it is a well-written book with a simple idea, but the idea is not well thought out and it is hard to take seriously outside of pure academic discussion. 14 of 32 people found the following review helpful. An interesting - and new - idea. But, oh, the side effects!

By A Customer
It was winter; the ants' store of grain had gotten wet and they were laying it out to dry. A hungry cicada asked them for something to eat. "Why didn't you gather food in the summer, like us?" one of the worker ants asked. "I didn't have time," it replied; "I was busy making sweet music." The worker laughed at it. "Very well," it said; "since you sang in the summer, you must dance in the winter." A few ants of the drone caste heard what the worker said and were morally outraged. They convinced their brother drones to force the colony to share its grain with the cicada and all its relatives. "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs," they said. For several years the drones ran the colony in the new, moral, way. The cicadas and the ants all nearly starved to death. Equally. The drones of another colony, who agreed with the moral claim of the cicadas, pondered the sad fate of first colony. "The worker was right; the cicada made its own choices and had no moral claim on the ants' store of grain," they said. "But not everyone gets a fair start. To fix this, we will give everyone a share of the grain at the beginning of the summer, not at the end. Then at the end of the summer everyone will pay back the share he or she got at the beginning, plus interest. And those who do well and have extra grain will pay back extra to make up for those who don't have enough." The cicadas thought this was a great idea. The workers weren't so sure. All that summer, the cicadas sang sweetly, the workers gathered grain (but not too much since they knew they'd have to give away any extra), and the drones watched. That winter they all nearly starved to death. Equally.

A quarter century of trickle-down economics has failed. Economic inequality in the United States has dramatically increased. Many, alas, seem resigned to this growing chasm between rich and poor. But what would happen, ask Bruce Ackerman and Anne Alstott, if America were to make good on its promise of equal opportunity by granting every qualifying young adult a citizen's stake of eighty thousand dollars? Ackerman and Alstott argue that every American citizen has the right to share in the wealth accumulated by preceding generations. The distribution of wealth is currently so skewed that the stakeholding fund could be financed by an annual tax of two percent on the property owned by the richest forty percent of Americans. Ackerman and Alstott analyze their initiative from moral, political, economic, legal, and human perspectives. By summoning the political will to initiate stakeholding, they argue, we can achieve a society that is more democratic, productive, and free. Their simple but realistic plan would enhance each young adult's real ability to shape his or her own future. It is, in short, an idea that should be taken seriously by anyone concerned with citizenship, welfare dependency, or social justice in America today.