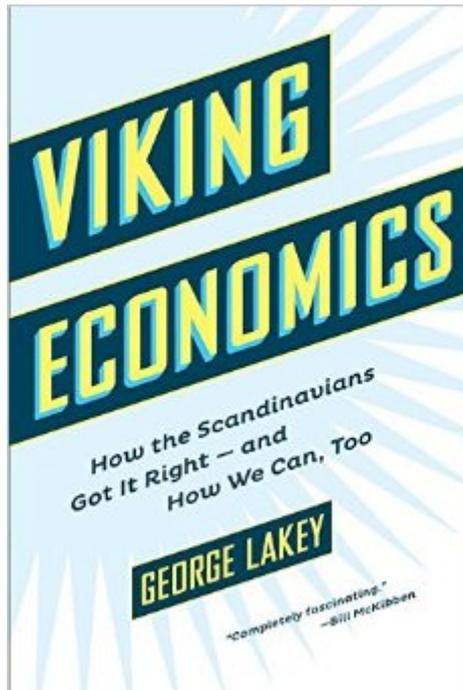


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Viking Economics: How The Scandinavians Got It Right-and How We Can, Too



Synopsis

Liberals worldwide invoke Scandinavia as a promised land of equality, while most conservatives fear it as a hotbed of liberty-threatening socialism. But the left and right can usually agree on one thing: that the Nordic system is impossible to replicate elsewhere. The US and UK are too big, or too individualistic, or too . . . something. *Å In Viking Economics* "perhaps the most fun economics book you've ever read" George Lakey dispels these myths. He explores the inner-workings of the Nordic economies that boast the world's happiest, most productive workers, and explains how, if we can enact some of the changes the Scandinavians fought for surprisingly recently, we, too, can embrace equality in our economic policy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is really timely, and enormously inspiring. Instead of just suggesting vaguely that 'there must be a better way', beyond austerity and the neo-liberal agenda, readers can point specifically to the Nordic nations, and how they have managed to achieve a quality of life, community and economic success that is the envy of most other nations. George Lakey is uniquely placed to have written such a book, since he is married to a Norwegian, and visits his extended family there regularly. For his research, he has interviewed people all over Scandinavia, and he also tells us how they did it, through their history from the 1930s onward. I strongly, strongly recommend this book to anyone who has felt the Bern, and who knows instinctively that yes, there IS a better way.

Let me say first that I am a professor of public policy, but I like to read "popular social science" that is well-grounded in real evidence and data, such as *Women Don't Ask*, *The Big Sort*, *Bowling Alone*, etc. I found *Viking Economics* very interesting and an easy read and I was glad I read it. It is thought-provoking and leads to mulling about the US economic structure. But, the chapter I was looking forward to the most--the one on whether we could do this in the US and, if so, how--was the weakest, and that disappointed me. I do recommend this book, and in fact have passed it along to my dad so that we can talk about it. But it's weaker than I wish--but I'm also not the standard audience, I'm sure. Read it, enjoy it, think about it--but don't expect too much.

I enjoyed it very much. I was in Norway at the same time as the author and was unaware of the economic conditions. I feel much more informed. I would like to hear more critique by economists of the author's positions.

Amazing summary of the incredible benefits of these economies, and how they got that way. More people should read it and get active to make the USA follow their lead.

Lahey writes in short, declarative sentences demystifying global economics so that even i (a literature major) can follow and understand. The book is well researched and clearly describes how these countries developed over the years creating their unique and enviable ways to live. the book is actually fascinating and unforgettable - also offering some hope to the rest of us barbarians. please read!!!

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