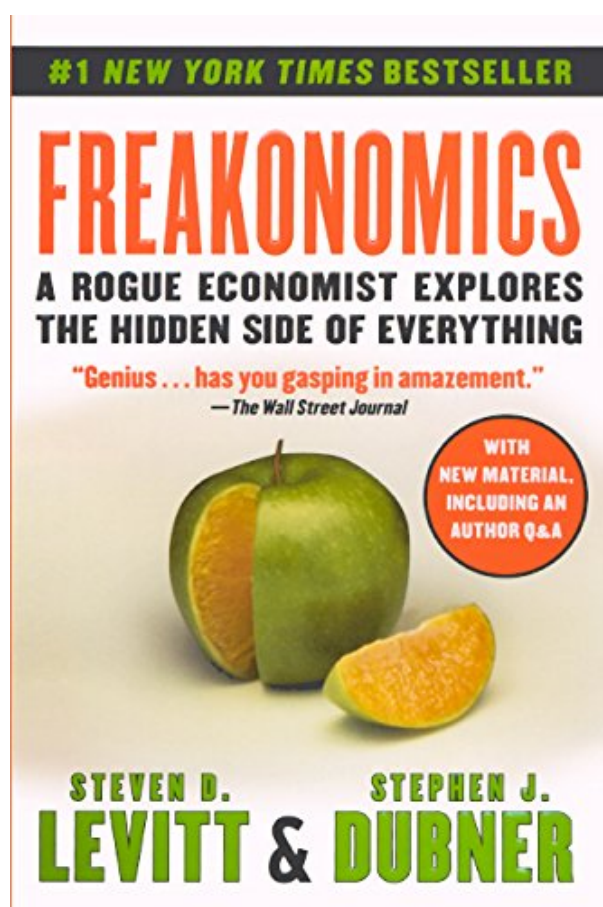


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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Matthew Ho Student Review

By Allen C. Ho

Economic concepts are always difficult to explain and tedious to understand. Supply and demand charts, lengthy equations, and complex theories can make economics a nightmare. Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner explores the “hidden side” of economics while also managing to avoid the insipidity of economics. The book is addictive and eye opening, two adjectives not generally associated with economics. Freakonomics extends our understanding of economics by presenting and examining simple scenarios where decisions are made. The authors then analyze these decisions and look for patterns. The findings in this book will leave you shocked and intrigued.

One of the successes of Freakonomics is its ability to make the reader see scenarios in new perspectives. Dubner and Levitt researched extensively for this book, and it paid off. The research conducted by these two exposed hidden truths throughout society. Sumo wrestlers, for example, were exposed and found to be cheaters. Dubner and Levitt’s revolutionary approach of quirkiness and simplicity makes Freakonomics informative yet addictive .

Don’t be fooled, however; both of these authors are well established in their fields. The diction and syntax in Dubner’s and Levitt’s Freakonomics does not represent their level of credibility and achievement

The use of simple scenarios and diction in Freakonomics can also be seen as its biggest weakness. Because Freakonomics is written at a level that does not require any economic knowledge, the book can be repetitive and annoying for people who have a decent economic background. The authors do a great job at explaining their points.

The organization of Freakonomics is also unique. The book is organized into 6 fairly unrelated chapters. The only commonality of the chapters is their explanations of economic principles. The structure and chapters could be switched and the book would stay relatively the same

Freakonomics truly is a unique piece of work. Yes, it is a book about economics, but it so much more than that. You don’t have to like economics to love Freakonomics. In fact, I think readers will like the book more if they know nothing about economics

The revolutionary technique of Levitt and Dubner is genius. By following the untraditional approach, readers are able to learn in a way that is fresh and exciting. The overwhelming amount of data allows their arguments to be nearly flawless. No loopholes; you can’t argue the numbers. Freakonomics rips apart the

traditional standard of informative books and hopefully will create a new style of writing for years to come.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Freakonomics Review

By Amazon Customer

People are often drawn in by numbers and statistics. Whether it be the correlation between names and the success of the people with these names or how many people will pay for donuts when no one is looking. "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner breaks down and analysis what seem like random piles of information and draw conclusions that turn out to be shocking.

One section in the book talks about the relationship between the number of books a child owns versus the test scores they receive. Many people would guess that the more books a child owns, the higher their test scores would be. That is correct. People would also assume that reading these books often would contribute to higher test scores too. That is false. Dubner explains that while reading books does not seem to have an effect on test scores, having a lot of books does because it indicates well educated parents.

Dubner continues by discussing the effect on names on a person's success. It is found that people with names such as DeShawn or Latanya do not perform well on test. People may assume that this has to do with the name but this actually has to do with the parents who name their children these names. Overall, it is found that uneducated, single women give their children their unique names, and because of the parent's education, the child does not succeed in school.

The book questions a lot of controversial topics while also arousing some stunning information. A part of the book is dedicated into studying whether or not elementary teachers alter their children's test scores, to help their reputation. It was found that some teachers do in fact do this. They were able to compare specific strings of answers in the test of students, and found that they all got these answers correct. It was also found that this strand would be toward the end of the test, where there are harder questions. The teacher assumes that the children will get the easy questions correct, and will only change the questions she thinks they will get wrong. While may seem like it doesn't affect the students, it turns out it does greatly. It was found the after the year of the teacher cheating, the children perform much worse on tests, than children that had average scores the year before. That means the children whose teacher cheated, had actually hurt them.

The authors are usually cautious at making assumptions, and even criticize people for making them. The one flaw is during an experiment where cookies were left out on a table. The people had to pay when no one was looking. It was found that 13% of people didn't pay. So, Dubner assumed that 87% of people were good people with good moral. He did not take into affect any of the guilt that the people would feel if they had stolen, or if they thought they were being watched or recorded.

"Freakonomics" is not so much about economics as it is about cause and effect, and correlations between things. It is an interesting read for anyone, and I would highly recommend it.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Witty, engaging and intelligent: what more could you want?

By miranda

I first found out about Freakonomics when I saw a rather eccentric, hotdog-covered book entitled 'Think Like A Freak' coauthored by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner at a local bookshop and decided to search the book up when I got home since it seemed to be like an interesting nonfiction book by authors with a lovely sense of humour. Unsurprisingly, these two authors had a few other books, one of them happening to be called 'Freakonomics' and so, I decided to make an impulse buy and ordered it on Amazon.

Can I just say, probably best decision ever?

Freakonomics showed me that economics wasn't such a boring field of study after all and gave me what it was really about: a study of incentives to help analyse data and draw logical conclusions from it. Levitt utilises this logic to answer quirky, unasked questions like 'what do sumo wrestlers and teachers have in common?', 'what's the reason for the 90's drop in crime?' or even 'why do drug dealers still live with their mothers?' to showcase the many uses of economic principles and meanwhile explain other concepts like information asymmetry or clarifying the difference between correlation and causation.

Overall, a really good read and investment of time. This book gets you to think a little differently about the world and open up solutions to problems that you might not've had before. Would 100% recommend to anyone; this is the kind of book that's so delightful it could hook anyone, no matter one's preferences for book genre.

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