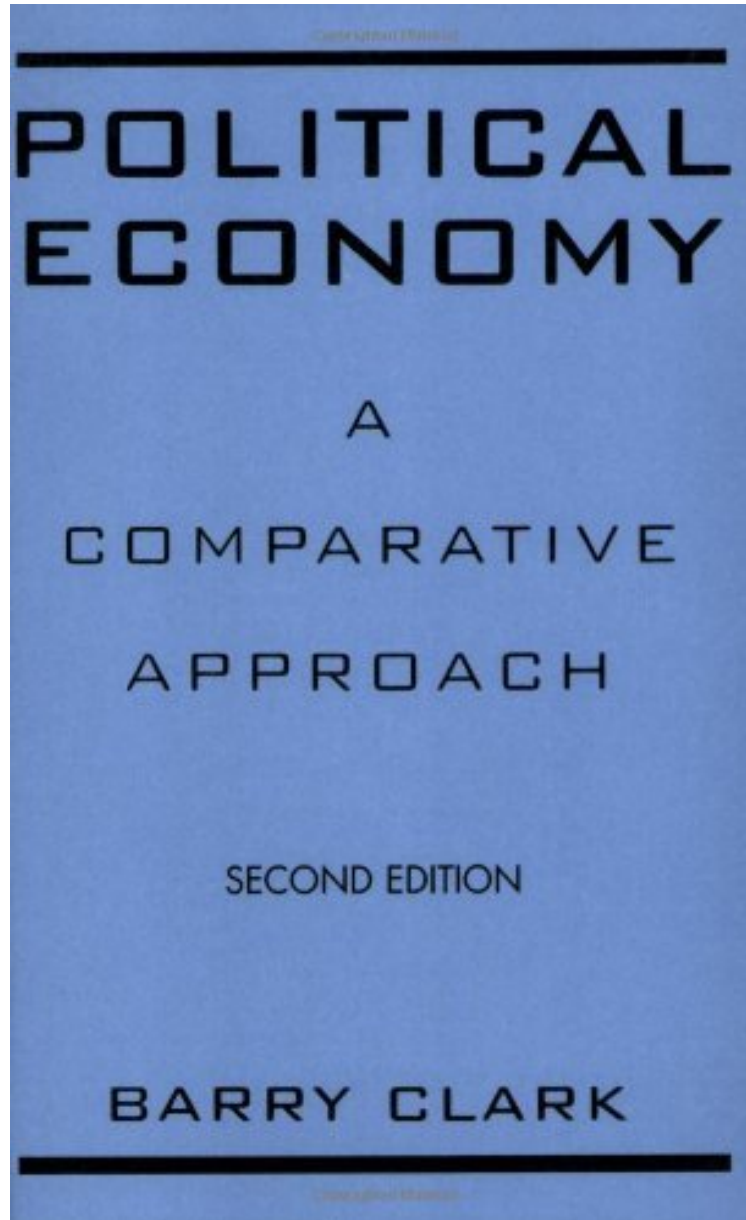


(Download) Political Economy: A Comparative Approach

Political Economy: A Comparative Approach

Barry S. Clark

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Barry S. Clark : Political Economy: A Comparative Approach before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Political Economy: A Comparative Approach:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The best break down of political economy ever!By RunamuckThis book gives the best break down of the political and economic thoughts that are currently being used in academia. This book gives a general synopsis of all the current thoughts that are out there, as well as those that were prominent in the

past. This book does not take sides nor does it argue for a specific ideological path, it just gives the main arguments that each discipline promotes. The book then applies each of these discipline's thoughts to major areas such as labor. This is the perfect book for those that want to learn more about political economy without having to wade through the propaganda of the different ideologies. Easy to read one does not need a college degree to understand the concepts in this book. The author breaks down these complex ideologies and theories into simple to understand descriptions. Important for all to read, and even the layman can understand fully the key terms that are being thrown around on the nightly news. 11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An excellent introduction to political economy By Samuel Freeman A truly superb book! Clark is kinder to economists in the Introduction to the 2nd ed. than he was in the 1st ed., though his criticisms of economists for their pretense of being "value free" and "objective" probably was more accurate in the 1st ed. We'll find unicorns grazing in the flower bed before we find value free and objective economists, or value free and objective science for that matter. The 1st 2 chapters read very much like a text book and may be difficult to wade through for those with minimal backgrounds in economics and political science. But this should not discourage readers as Clark's discussion of the 4 major schools of political economic thought--Classical Liberalism, Radicalism, Classical Conservatism, and Modern Liberalism--is excellent. Though relatively succinct and written at an "introductory" level, Clark does an excellent job of laying out the fundamentals of each of the 4 schools of thought as well as the evolution of thinking within each school through summary discussions of the "architects" of each school. He then offers a brief and very fair critique of each school of thought. For those unfamiliar with the diversity of political-economic thought, which is most people (and, sadly, certainly includes virtually everyone who majored or minored in "business school" economics in college), these 4 chapters alone make the book worthwhile reading. But for most readers, the real forte of the book comes in Part III in which Clark examines the major issues in political economy today; such as, inflation, unemployment, poverty, inequality, labor, minorities (to include women within the political-economic arena), education, culture, the environment, and international trade. Within each of these areas, Clark identifies the arguments of each of the 4 schools of political economic thought in terms of what each sees as the roots of the issue, the nature of the issue today, and what should and/or should not be done about it. For someone looking for a relatively brief examination of these issues, which gives a genuinely fair presentation of diverse and competing views, there simply is no other book published today. One important strength of Clark's work is it does explode the myth of economics as a "science", as well as the myths of the discipline of economics being value free and not grounded in ideology, and the myth there is some kind of general consensus among economists. Regardless of a person's political-economic ideological orientation, readers will become more aware and more appreciative of alternative and competing points of view. And they will be able to see more easily what passes for "economic" reporting and analysis in the news media and by government officials is little more than propaganda--the promulgation of the favored economic world view as truth. This is extremely important because, even (especially) for those who agree with "mainstream" economic analysis, there are numerous dangers in falling into the trap of believing the fundamental ideological/value questions of economics and the relationship between the economic and political system have been asked, answered, and agreed upon. Such tunnel vision is a prescription for disaster which Clark's book can help us avoid. So put on the hip boots; wade through the 1st two chapters (heavy but necessary); and then enjoy. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The smartest, best informed, and wisest book on economics I have ever read. By Frederick Norwood If you want a book that will tell you that everything you think is right, and that everyone who disagrees with you is wrong, this is not the book for you. There are countless best-sellers that will tell you that. But you won't learn anything by reading them. By definition, you do not learn anything from a book that tells you that you are always right. On the other hand, if you want to learn something about economics, this is the book to read. It presents all serious points of view on each of the important economic issues. These are ideas which every citizen has an obligation to understand.

In this revised edition of the widely used and comprehensive overview of political/economic thought, political theory, sociology, and philosophy are integrated with economic analysis. Clark offers an introduction to the method and history of political economy, along with comparative studies of classical liberalism, radicalism, conservatism, and modern liberalism. Various issues such as the role of government, inflation and unemployment, poverty and inequality, and education, culture, and gender, are given a comparative analysis from the perspectives of the four major economic ideologies, and contemporary debates are traced back to their origins in the European industrialization process. Political economy offers a more comprehensive view of social interactions and the human condition than is available through the separate and specialized social sciences. In this revised edition of the widely used and comprehensive overview of political/economic thought, political theory, sociology, and philosophy are integrated with economic analysis. Clark offers an introduction to the method and history of political economy, along with comparative studies of classical liberalism, radicalism, conservatism, and modern liberalism. Various issues such as the role of government, inflation and unemployment, poverty and inequality, and education, culture, and gender, are given a comparative analysis from the perspectives of the four major economic ideologies, and contemporary debates are traced back to their origins in the European industrialization process. The book reveals the underlying value

judgements and ideological commitments that fuel the debates over public policy. Recognizing the absence of any consensus regarding the meaning of political economy, Clark begins his work with an introduction to the alternative meanings and historical evolution of the field. This is followed by chapters describing the four comparative approaches, and offering detailed analyses of the thinkers and perspectives that make them up. The rest of the text is devoted to major issues of modern political economy, including a new chapter on science and ideology. Readable, interesting, and up-to-date, this is the ideal text for any course on Political Economy, History of Economic Thought, or Political Theory.

... "useful for all who are concerned with taking stock of "the state of the discipline" as a step toward the reconstruction and further development of a radical alternative appropriate for the twenty-first century." - of Radical Political Economics... "[H]e has produced a thoughtful volume suitable for use in undergraduate classes and reading economists generally. lower division undergraduate through faculty collections." - Choice... "Yacute; Huml; e has produced a thoughtful volume suitable for use in undergraduate classes and reading economists generally. lower division undergraduate through faculty collections." - Choice?... "[H]e has produced a thoughtful volume suitable for use in undergraduate classes and reading economists generally. lower division undergraduate through faculty collections." - Choice?... useful for all who are concerned with taking stock of "the state of the discipline" as a step toward the reconstruction and further development of a radical alternative appropriate for the twenty-first century. ?- of Radical Political Economics... "[H]e has produced a thoughtful volume suitable for use in undergraduate classes and reading economists generally. lower division undergraduate through faculty collections." - Choice... "useful for all who are concerned with taking stock of "the state of the discipline" as a step toward the reconstruction and further development of a radical alternative appropriate for the twenty-first century." - of Radical Political Economics About the Author BARRY CLARK is a professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. /e His research and publications have focused on the ethical dimensions of Public Policy.