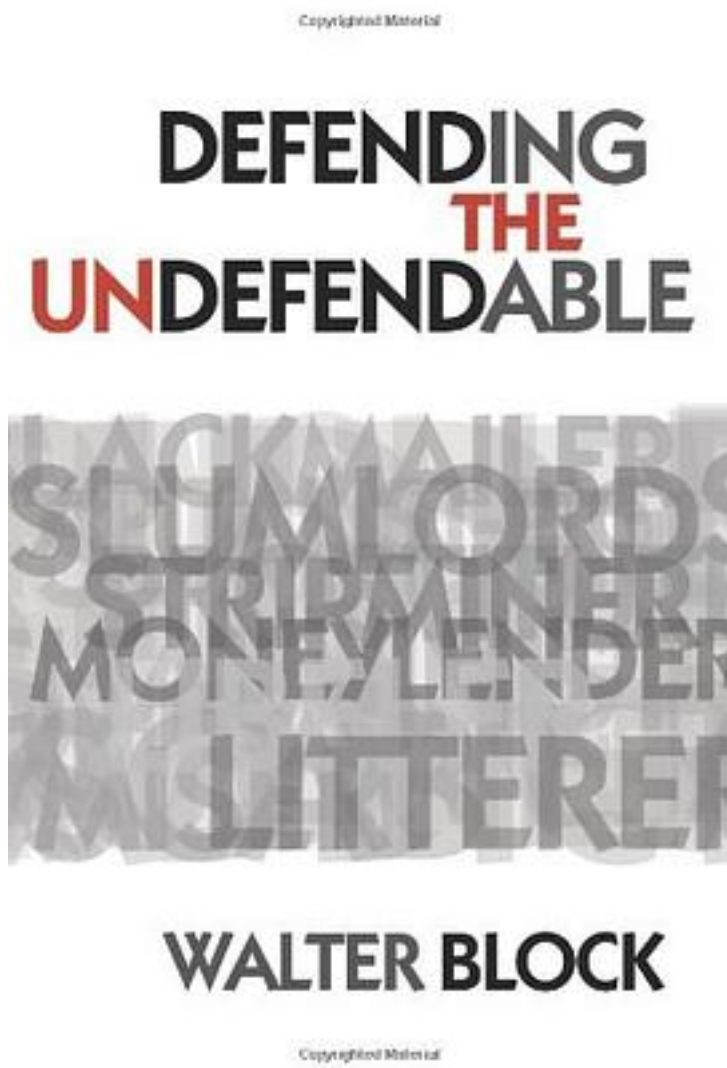


Defending the Undefendable



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著者:Walter Block

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Professor Block's book is in a new edition from the Mises Institute, completely reset and beautifully laid out in an edition worthy of its contents.

It is among the most famous of the great defenses of victimless crimes and controversial economic practices, from profiteering and gouging to bribery and blackmail. However, beneath the surface, this book is also an outstanding work of microeconomic theory that explains the workings of economic forces in everyday events and affairs.

Murray Rothbard explains why:

"Defending the Undefendable performs the service of highlighting, the fullest and starkest terms, the essential nature of the productive services performed by all people in the free market. By taking the most extreme examples and showing how the Smithian principles work even in these cases, the book does far more to demonstrate the workability and morality of the free market than a dozen sober tomes on more respectable industries and activities. By testing and proving the extreme cases, he all the more illustrates and vindicates the theory."

F.A. Hayek agreed, writing the author as follows: "Looking through Defending the Undefendable made me feel that I was once more exposed to the shock therapy by which, more than fifty years ago, the late Ludwig von Mises converted me to a consistent free market position. ... Some may find it too strong a medicine, but it will still do them good even if they hate it. A real understanding of economics demands that one disabuses oneself of many dear prejudices and illusions. Popular fallacies in economic frequently express themselves in unfounded prejudices against other occupations, and showing the falsity of these stereotypes you are doing a real services, although you will not make yourself more popular with the majority."

The contents of this book include:

Foreword by Murray N. Rothbard

Commentary by F.A. Hayek

Introduction

Sexual

The Prostitute

The Pimp

The Male Chauvinist Pig

Medical

The Drug Pusher

The Drug Addict

Free Speech

The Blackmailer

The Slanderer or Libeler

The Denier of Academic Freedom

The Advertiser

The Person Who Yells "Fire!" in a Crowded Theatre

Outlaw

The Gypsy Cab Driver

The Ticket Scalper

The Dishonest Cop

Financial

The (Non-Government) Counterfeiter

The Miser

The Inheritor

The Moneylender

The Non-Contributor to Charity

Business and Trade

The Curmudgeon

The Slumlord

The Ghetto Merchant

The Speculator

The Importer

The Middleman

The Profiteer

Ecology

The Stripminer

The Litterer

The Wastemakers

Labor

The Fat Capitalist-Pig Employer

The Scab

The Rate Buster

The Employer of Child Labor

232 pp. (pb)

SUPPORTERS

"Looking through 'Defending the Undefendable' made me feel that I was once more exposed to the shock therapy by which, more than 50 years ago, the late Ludwig von Mises converted me to a consistent free market position. Even now I am occasionally at first incredulous and feel that "this is going too far," but usually find in the end that Block is right. Some may find it too strong a medicine, but it will do them good even if they hate it. A real understanding of economics demands that one disabuses oneself of many dear prejudices and illusions. Popular fallacies in economics frequently express themselves in unfounded prejudices against other occupations, and in showing the falsity of these stereotypes Block is doing a real service, although he will not make himself more popular with the majority."

--FA Hayek

"Judging from the outraged responses in many libertarian quarters, many of 'our people' are not ready for this exciting and shocking adventure. Since libertarians are, or are supposed to be on the forefront of thought, since their whole lives have been an intellectual adventure in many ways, the hostility becomes even more mysterious."

--Murray N. Rothbard

"There are things that I strongly agree with and things that I strongly disagree with, but the book throughout is amusingly and sharply reasoned, courageous and always provocative."

--Henry Hazlitt

"Many years ago Hazlitt's little masterpiece, *Economics in One Lesson*, demonstrated how, in order to measure the consequences of economic activities, one must look beyond their immediately obvious effects to their secondary effects. Here Professor Block sets out highly specific, and sometimes shocking examples of Hazlitt's thesis. By concentrating on the positive economic contributions of extreme cases, he forces the reader's consideration and greater appreciation of these principles."

--Robert D. Kephart

"It is a magnificent book, a trailblazer. I would call it 'Drano for Clogged Minds,' except that Drano is neither amusing nor stimulating, and this book is both. I suggest buying two copies: one for yourself and one for the person you want most to catch up with you."

--Roger Lea MacBride

"...More than almost any current book, DTU will wake the reader from his dogmatic slumbers. It is eminently readable, challenging, and provocative."

--John Hospers

"Startling and illuminating! Block's lucid defenses often convince: sometimes they lead us to sharpen our attack. In either case, the reader cannot fail to be instructed and challenged by this mind-stretching, provocative, and occasionally infuriating book."

--Robert Nozick

"What the critics have missed is that a book of libertarianism, not Objectivism, not Christianity, DTU used the most effective method for illustrating and teaching moral principles. Shock your friends and educate them."

--Don Ernsberger, S.I.L.

"This witty and wonderful book is a veritable manual of the 'joy of freedom.' If we were only half as interested in liberty as in lust, we would not have half the problems we have."

--Dr. Thomas S. Szasz

"The most entertaining and one of the most instructive economics books I've ever read. Block's unique style helps you see what's going on around you quickly and clearly. The book is terrific. Taking the most extreme examples possible and clarifying them will do more to bend the reader's economic thinking than a slow steady course in good economics."

--Harry Browne

"We can congratulate Dr. Block for some iconoclastic and courageous interpretations."

--Albert Ellis (psychologist)

"After reading Block's book, we recognize the pimp as an honest broker and the uncorrupted cop as the Nuremberg defendant who always followed orders. We are reminded that strip mining of coal allows miners to escape black-lung disease and cave-ins... Block gives the reader succinct yet penetrating criticisms of the Federal Reserve System, and the Keynesian paradox of savings. His chapter on charity is the best modern defense of social Darwinism that I have ever read."

--Williamson Evers

"It is a brilliant, relentlessly argued book, pushing the libertarian case to its extreme limits...take seriously Ayn Rand's dictum that one should be willing to defend the least attractive instance of a principle, and has done precisely that."

--Roy Childs (Editor: Libertarian Review)

"Shatters, one by one, each of our liberal stereotypes. It's a pleasure to read and a treasure trove of ammunition for the defender of the free market."

--Tom G. Palmer (The New Gaurd)

"toleration of unpopular religious and cultural groups has always been one of the chief tenets of classical liberalism...Block carries this libertarian principle to its logical and radical conclusion: toleration of all non-aggressive pursuits."

--Lawrence White (Harvard Political Review)

"A remarkable book. I found myself agreeing with Block for most of the time, and his argument is often ingenious. Spend a pleasant evening reading aloud some of his chapters (they are really quite short)."

--Henry Meulen (The Individualist)

DETRACTORS

"There can be no question of my writing a testimonial on behalf of this book."

--Nathaniel Branden

"Defending the Undefendable-A doomed attempt, one would say. Like thinking the unthinable, uttering the unutterable, or calculating the incalculable. As the philosopher remarked, wherefor one cannot speak, thereabout one had better keep quiet."

This assemblage of defences cannot (can it?) be facetious since it is ushered in by the author;s pious reference to a 'passion fro justice...

Rather non persuasive are the cases made out for the Dishonest Cop, the Speculator in food, the Non-Contributor to Charity, the Stripminer, the Drug Pusher, the Denier of Academic Freedom, and the Person who yells 'fire' in a crowded theatre. A passion for justice ought to inspire one to greater efforts."

--D.J. Enright (London Times Literary Supplement)

"...A positive menace to the libertarian movement. His smart-alecky, sensationalist style, the silly and false social and psychological assumptions he uses to back up some otherwise (mostly) valid political and economic points, the frivolous and insensitive attitudes he displays toward serious human problems all serve to confuse and distract from the valid points. Most people will be difficult to convince on rational political grounds without obscuring the issue with other half-baked, offensive, and unnecessary arguments. The book will be offensive to people not just because his general attitude will be interpreted as callous, asinine, and an affront to human dignity. It will surely reinforce the worst stereotypes people have about capitalists."

--Sharon Presley (Laissez Faire Books)

"..The wrong book at the wrong time...An absolutely mad way of introducing someone to libertarianism...I am convinced that it is probably a short run strategic disaster. One needs not only a steel will based on solid libertarian premises to accept Professor Block's message, but one needs a cast iron stomach as well. Those whom he defends are often, if not usually, the dregs of society: we could even say the very scum of the earth."

--Walter Grinder (Libertarian Review)

"DTU is a work of unrealized potential. The editing is sloppy. And the quality of the writing varies from chapter to chapter. Many good arguments, and indeed the book itself, founder over a simple misconception: Block is misusing the word her...He is not consistently attentive to detail, nor is he very ambitious in enriching his rich thesis with examples and anecdotes. If he had attended better to the art of writing and spared us the silly insistence of making all of society's rogues into heroes, then his very important thesis might well have become a very important book."

--Jamaes D. Davidson (Libertarian Review)

"Not only does he defend prostitutes, pimps, counterfeiters, ticket scalpers, slumlords, blackmailers, libelors, stripminers, letterers, and scabs (among others), he actually has the temerity to call them heroes! Block even has the gall to challenge the most enduring shibboleth of higher education, academic freedom."

--Dan C. Heldman (Universitas)

"The polarization of opinions on Block's book should not be surprising. It is reflection of the book's schizophrenic nature-a bizarre combination of both excellent and horrible elements. Apparently the endorsers chose to consider only the Dr. Jeckyll side of DTU and either ignored or failed to take seriously Mr. Hyde."

--Sharon Presley (Reason)

"Political and economic defense of the voluntary activities of society's 'scapegoats' -pimps, slumlords, moneylenders, etc. Done in a sensationalistic style, much of the reasoning is questionable and unnecessarily offensive. Not a good introduction to libertarianism."

--Laissez Faire Books Catalogue

"Block defends some of the silliest ideas in support of an essentially good cause...He raises some stimulating issues, even if in an intellectually inadequate fashion...A foolish consistency may be the 'hobgoblin of little minds,' as Emerson said, but serious inconsistency (as in this book) is the downfall of many theories about morality and law."

--Tibor Machan (World Research Ink)

作者介绍:

作者: (美国)瓦特·布拉克 译者: 余引

瓦特·布拉克, 奥地利学派经济学家, 自由市场经济理论的倡导者和践行者。获得美国哥伦比亚大学经济学博士学位, 目前任教于美国新奥尔良的洛约拉大学商学院。《百辩经济学》是他最知名的著作, 被视为自由市场经济领域最经典的书籍之一。

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标签

经济

奥地利学派

经济学

Economics

libertarianism

WalterBlock

英文

百辩经济学

评论

①世界上许多大坏事都是好心人干出来的②社会经济学没有绝对正确——除了上边这句③一生中须得何种幸运才能遇到这样的老师④生也有涯，希望读到的都是这种读了之后让你觉得还有更多书要读的书⑤希望看到布洛克关于政府边界的书

有些点不喜欢，其他都很喜欢，犀利地让我喜欢。

In this book, Professor Block, through the case-by-case comparison of those jobs with notorious public perception and their functions in the market, forces the reader to think, to rethink his initial emotional responses, and to gain a new and far sounder appreciation of economic theory and of the virtues and operations of the free-market economy

个别内容有些偏激了，吵架不是这么吵的。。。不过还是很好看滴，而且充满了娱乐性。。。前两天看到一个号称春运火车票应该加价的帖，我赶脚就是按照这本书的思路走的，结果迎来一片怒骂声。。。

有两三处很赞同，但总的来说每一个职业都可以写成一本专书，因为情况太复杂了。

还行 后半本书论点有点大同小异，最后一章颇有新意

不知道用经济学思维思考可能是傻逼，但只用经济学思维思考也是傻逼

恐怖的自由意志主义者，推演出一堆挑战人类传统伦理的怪东西，还用逻辑来拷问伦理直觉和道德辩护，五星只能给作者的异想天开。
听说作者还给北韩和伊朗的政治外交政策洗地。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。

some of the cases are reasonable but unnecessary

这本书写的很有趣，尤其写伪钞制造者的那段--伪造伪钞-政府发行的法定纸币，称他们为hero。Block还为歧视辩护好多年。

有一定道理, 算是不同的声音, 但太过于理想主义. 另外听他本人讲课比这个有笑点多了.

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书评

在颠簸不停的出差路上，看完瓦特·布拉克的《百辩经济学》。这本书是在微博大V薛老被逮捕后微博网友推荐的，一本足以颠覆固有思维的书，他从经济学的理念出发去分析各种各样的社会问题，从另外一个角度加以解读，为被大多数人理解为社会不良现象的行为正名。书里认为性产业...

对于生活中一些从事不那么光彩职业的人，大众总是像对待过街老鼠一般，人人喊打。可他们的存在，真是于社会无益的吗？作者通过这本书，勇敢地对传统道德之声说“不”！他们虽然主观上是为自身谋利，但在客观上却也促进了社会的福利。罗素（貌似是他）说过，“世界上90%的糟糕事...

在我们传统的教育里，当一事物被贴上“违法”、“不道德”的标签，这件事就变得“理算当然的不合理”。而事实上，很多事情并不是我们直观认识或者感性认识上的样子，其存在的合理性往往被我们主观的喧嚣意愿淹没。
《百辩经济学》就是对社会生活中各种不合理现象甚至是“社会...

刚在书店看完这本书，感觉心情很激动。作者堪称是第一流的社科学者，不仅可以做到在社科内轻松跨学科运用自如，还有一种恰到好处的人本主义关怀自然蕴含其中，并且显示出了惊人的聪慧敏锐以及勇气。
右派经济学家为性工作者辩护并不鲜见，为童工辩护也有所见闻，但为诽谤者、...

这本厉害的《百辩经济学》，由罗斯巴德与哈耶克二位大师作序，而要评论它，我只想到了一句“无所不用其极”，正如极端与极致二者的差别很大吗？要推广一种被排斥在常识之外的（奥地利派）经济学思维，又怎能不无所不用其极？因为一直以来就被正义之士强烈道德批判的行为（很多...

本书的作者是瓦特·布拉克，一位自由意志论者。他写此书的主旨是在为自由市场经济辩护。什么是自由市场经济？据我的理解，自由市场经济就是在“神圣不可侵犯”的私有产权下，人们进行自由交易的社会。
作者也在他的自序中对自由市场经济进行说明。他特别强调自...

这是一本试图为「恶魔」辩护的书。
为什么有那么多「犯罪行为」屡禁不止？比如卖淫、器官交易、黑车、敲诈==、雇佣童

工 因为

人类的有些需求是永远存在的，而且这些事情本身并不对他人造成伤害，但是由于某些需求和我们传统的道德或者惯例有冲突，所以相关的市场没有办法建立起...

只用心看了妓女、毒贩、最低工资一章。

所读的内容中，作者的大部分论点确实站的住脚的，有自己的理论依据和例子来支撑。同时，很多生活中小例子的论证显得过于简单，没有自己的理论依据，疑似诡辩，暂不足以支持作者的观点。遗憾的是，作者的意图原本是从经济学的角度来...

还需要更多事例来验证推论，另外其实书中很多问题除了经济学，还牵涉道德，法律等方面，作为拓宽视野的书来看还是很好的……

只要不伤害他人身体，而起双方皆自愿，则一切皆应按市场经济原则来做，基本是这书的宗旨了……

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