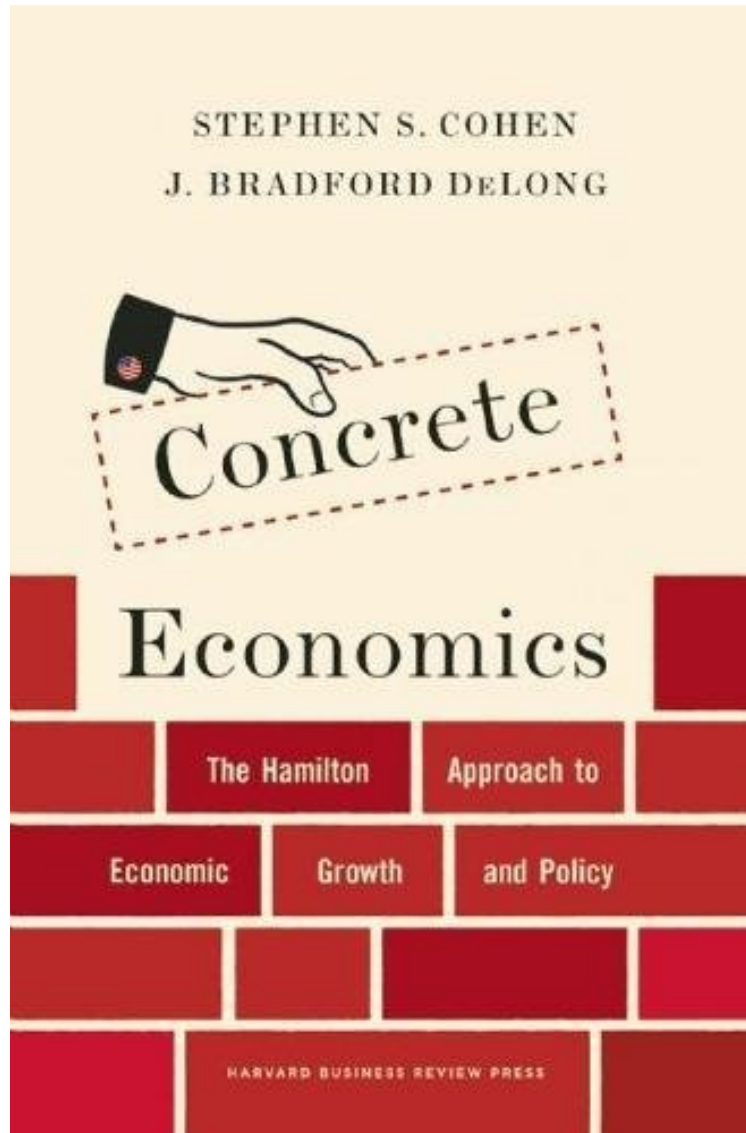


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Concrete Economics: The Hamilton Approach to Economic Growth and Policy

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Stephen S. Cohen, J. Bradford DeLong : Concrete Economics: The Hamilton Approach to Economic Growth and Policy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Concrete Economics: The Hamilton Approach to Economic Growth and Policy:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than the musicalBy CustomerWell done -- the title should be reversed. This short polemic does a excellent job of reviewing the history of involvement of the federal government in the development of the US economy. The hypothesis of the text is that Hamilton started the US away from being a raw materials supplier toward becoming the industrial powerhouse that US ultimately became. The trajectory was successful because the US always choose the 'pragmatic' solution to a problem. In the end the authors argue that the US has left the pragmatic path and has moved toward an unsuccessful ideological path in the 30-ish years. The book is modestly well documented. It is well written and, generally speaking, avoids 'economics' speak.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Plea For Economic Pragmatism.By Kevin HillA pragmatic look at the History of the American Economy with a plea for pragmatism rather than ideology. The hero of this account is, of course, Alexander Hamilton, a man of amazing foresight and commonsense. The book is well worth reading for the broad perspective it provides for today's issues. Its argument is not one based on abstract ideas or mathematical models; instead it is based on looking at history, the history of how the US economy benefited from a pragmatic government approach for much of our past.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Small volume packs a heavyweight punch, knocking out tired myths about the oppressiveness of the U.S federal government.By Robert J. SeidmanStephen S. Cohen and J. Bradford DeLongs "Concrete Economics" is a mere 192 pages. But what a little volume with such a huge grasp. What other economics text do you know thats literate, readable, deft and informed? Forcefully but reasonably, Concrete Economics debunks the Republican litany that government is the enemy and that starving the beast is a divine mission. Such an ostrich-like article of faith ignores the impressive history of U.S. growth and development. Cohen and De Long present hard evidence about the importance of government as a major engine of the U.S. economy, an indispensable source for funding of essential research and development, the guarantor of capital intense undertakings too large for the private sector. Indeed, the authors correctly state that federal investment sponsored the most important strides in infrastructure and growth of marketscreating the extensive American canal system to move goods to cities, husbanding our unprecedented miles of railroads and the vast interstate highway system as well as our once state-of-the-art airports. Government also was the initiating force behind the R D that led to the creation of computers and the internet. The government-sponsored investment in what the country needed ran afoul of the deregulation mania of that began in the Reagan era, which helped spur the vast income disparities we now face. Please buy and read and spread the word about the importance of Concrete Economics. Rarely is such a valuable volume so accessible, so valid and so convincing about where we once were as a nation and where we should be heading. A five-star gem.Robert J. Seidman is a novelist, screenwriter, literary critic. Not a quantitative fellow, he greatly appreciates this addition by superb economists to his laymans understanding of our economic past and future.Stephen S. Cohen and J. Bradford DeLongs Concrete Economics is a mere 192 pages. But what a little volume with such a huge grasp. What other economics text do you know thats literate, readable, deft and informed? 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an excellent new book Paul Krugman, The New York TimesHistory, not ideology, holds the key to growth.Brilliantly written and argued, Concrete Economics shows how government has repeatedly reshaped the American economy ever since Alexander Hamiltons first, foundational redesign.This book does not rehash the sturdy and long-accepted arguments that to thrive, entrepreneurial economies need a broad range of freedoms. Instead, Steve Cohen and Brad DeLong remedy our national amnesia about how our economy has actually grown and the role government has played in redesigning and reinvigorating it throughout our history. The government not only sets the ground rules for entrepreneurial activity but directs the surges of energy that mark a vibrant economy. This is as true for present-day Silicon Valley as it was for New England manufacturing at the dawn of the nineteenth century.The authors argument is not one based on abstract ideas, arcane discoveries, or complex correlations. Instead it is based on the factsfacts that were once well known but that have been obscured in a fog of ideologyof how the US economy benefited from a pragmatic government approach to succeed so brilliantly.Understanding how our economy has grown in the past

provides a blueprint for how we might again redesign and reinvigorate it today, for such a redesign is sorely needed.

high on readability a lyrical manifesto. Financial Times Concrete economics reflects the pragmatic policies responsible for American economic development from independence through the 1960s It is the embodiment of Alexander Hamiltons very visible hand expanding the economic space necessary for markets to flourish. Highly recommended. CHOICE, the publication of the American Library Association a powerful little book with important messages to be debated. Marx and Philosophy of Bookseasy to read, and extremely informative a worthy look at the history of the U.S. economy, and how and why it has grown as it has. Manhattan Book a valuable lesson to people who run organizations of any type: public, private, for-profit, and nonprofit. strategy+business magazine ADVANCE PRAISE for Concrete Economics: Lawrence H. Summers, Charles W. Eliot University Professor, Harvard University Cohen and DeLongs polemical style adds a distinctive voice to economic policy debates. This book may enlighten and infuriate. It is a bold effort by bold thinkers. Michael Lind, author, Land of Promise: An Economic History of the United States In a dynamic economy, private enterprise and public leadership are partners, not adversaries. That is the lesson of the past for the future, drawn by two of the finest economic thinkers of the present in this timely and important book.