

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty

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Review

A must-read. Acemoglu and Robinson are intellectual heavyweights of the first rank (*Guardian*)

An important book (*New York Times*)

An intellectually rich book that develops an important thesis with verve (*FT*)

It's a great read. Like me, you may succumb to reading it in one go, and then you may come back to it again and again. (Jared Diamond, Pulitzer-prize-winning author)

A must-read. Acemoglu and Robinson are intellectual heavyweights of the first rank ... they have done you the courtesy of writing a book that while at the intellectual cutting edge is not just readable but engrossing ... erudite and fascinating. (Paul Collier *Observer*)

For those who think that a nation's economic fate is determined by geography or culture, Daron Acemoglu and Jim Robinson have bad news. It's man-made institutions, not the lay of the land or the faith of our forefathers, that determine whether a country is rich or poor. Synthesizing brilliantly the work of theorists from Adam Smith to Douglass North with more recent empirical research by economic historians, Acemoglu and Robinson have produced a compelling and highly readable book. And their conclusion is a cheering one: the authoritarian "extractive" institutions like the one's that drive growth in China today are bound to run out of steam. Without the inclusive institutions that first evolved in the West, sustainable growth is impossible, because only a truly free society can foster genuine innovation and the creative destruction that is its corollary. (*Niall Ferguson, author of 'The Ascent of Money'*)

This fascinating and readable book centers on the complex joint evolution of political and economic institutions, in good directions and bad. It strikes a delicate balance between the logic of political and economic behavior and the shifts in direction created by contingent historical events, large and small at 'critical junctures'. Acemoglu and Robinson provide an enormous range of historical examples to show how such shifts can tilt toward favorable institutions, progressive innovation and economic success or toward repressive institutions and eventual decay or stagnation. Somehow they can generate both excitement and reflection. (Robert Solow, Nobel Laureate in Economics)

It's the politics, stupid! That is Acemoglu and Robinson's simple yet compelling explanation for why so many countries fail to develop. From the absolutism of the Stuarts to the antebellum South, from Sierra Leone to Colombia, this magisterial work shows how powerful elites rig the rules to benefit themselves at the expense of the many. Charting a careful course between the pessimists and optimists, the authors demonstrate history and geography need not be destiny. But they also document how sensible economic ideas and policies often achieve little in the absence of

fundamental political change. (*Dani Rodrik, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University*)

Two of the world's best and most erudite economists turn to the hardest issue of all: why are some nations poor and others rich? Written with a deep knowledge of economics and political history, this is perhaps the most powerful statement made to date that 'institutions matter.' A provocative, instructive, yet thoroughly enthralling book. (Joel Mokyr, Robert H. Strotz Professor of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Economics and History, Northwestern University)

Imagine sitting around a table listening to Jared Diamond, Joseph Schumpeter, and James Madison reflect on over two thousand years of political and economic history. Imagine that they weave their ideas into a coherent theoretical framework based on limiting extraction, promoting creative destruction, and creating strong political institutions that share power and you begin to see the contribution of this brilliant and engagingly written book. (Scott E. Page, University of Michigan and Santa Fe Institute)

In this stunningly wide ranging book Acemoglu and Robinson ask a simple but vital question, why do some nations become rich and others remain poor? Their answer is also simple -- because some polities develop more inclusive political institutions. What is remarkable about the book is the crispness and clarity of the writing, the elegance of the argument, and the remarkable richness of historical detail. This book is a must read at a moment where governments right across the western world must come up with the political will to deal with a debt crisis of unusual proportions. (Steve Pincus, Bradford Durfee Professor of History and International and Area Studies, Yale University)

Acemoglu and Robinson -- two of the world's leading experts on development -- explain why it is not geography, disease, or culture which explains why some nations are rich and some poor, but rather a matter of institutions and politics. This highly accessible book provides welcome insight to specialists and general readers alike. (Francis Fukuyama)

Some time ago a little known Scottish philosopher wrote a book on what makes nations succeed and what makes them fail. The *Wealth of Nations* is still being read today. With the same perspicacity and with the same broad historical perspective, Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson have re-tackled this same question for our own times. Two centuries from now our great-great-...-great grandchildren will be, similarly, reading *Why Nations Fail*. (George Akerlof, Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2001)

Acemoglu and Robinson have made an important contribution to the debate as to why similar-looking nations differ so greatly in their economic and political development. Through a broad multiplicity of historical examples, they show how institutional developments, sometimes based on very accidental circumstances, have had enormous consequences. The openness of a society, its willingness to permit creative destruction, and the rule of law appear to be decisive for economic development. (Kenneth J. Arrow)

This not only a fascinating and interesting book: it is a really important one. The highly original research that Professors Acemoglu and Robinson have done, and continue to do, on how economic forces, politics and policy choices evolve together and constrain each other, and how

institutions affect that evolution, is essential to understanding the successes and failures of societies and nations. And here, in this book, these insights come in a highly accessible, indeed riveting form. Those who pick this book up and start reading will have trouble putting it down. (*Michael Spence*)

Why Nations Fail is a truly awesome book. Acemoglu and Robinson tackle one of the most important problems in the social sciences -- a question that has bedeviled leading thinkers for centuries -- and offer an answer that is brilliant in its simplicity and power. A wonderfully readable mix of history, political science, and economics, this book will change the way we think about economic development. *Why Nations Fail* is a must read book.

(*Steven Levitt, author of Freakonomics*)

Why Nations Fail is so good in so many ways that I despair of listing them all. It is an excellent book and should be purchased forthwith, so to encourage the authors to keep working. (Charles C. Mann, author of *1491* and *1493*)

In this delightfully readable romp through 400 years of history, two of the giants of contemporary social science bring us an inspiring and important message: it is freedom that makes the world rich. Let tyrants everywhere tremble! (Ian Morris, Stanford University, author of *Why the West Rules - For Now*)

The authors convincingly show that countries escape poverty only when they have appropriate economic institutions, especially private property and competition. More originally, they argue countries are more likely to develop the right institutions when they have an open pluralistic political system with competition for political office, a widespread electorate, and openness to new political leaders. This intimate connection between political and economic institutions is the heart of their major contribution, and has resulted in a study of great vitality on one of the crucial questions in economics and political economy. (Gary S. Becker, Nobel laureate in economics, 1992)

This important and insightful book, packed with historical examples, makes the case that inclusive political institutions in support of inclusive economic institutions is key to sustained prosperity. The book reviews how some good regimes got launched and then had a virtuous spiral, while bad regimes remain in a vicious spiral. This is important analysis not to be missed. (Peter Diamond, Nobel laureate in economics, 2010)

A brilliant and uplifting book -- yet also a deeply disturbing wake-up call. Acemoglu and Robinson lay out a convincing theory of almost everything to do with economic development. Countries rise when they put in place the right pro-growth political institutions and they fail--often spectacularly--when those institutions ossify or fail to adapt. Powerful people always and everywhere seek to grab complete control over government, undermining broader social progress for their own greed. Keep those people in check with effective democracy or watch your nation fail. (Simon Johnson, co-author of *13 Bankers* and professor at MIT Sloan)

a fascinating bit of scholarship that is laden with lots of interesting historical detail (*Sunday Business Post*)

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A must-read that makes sense of recent upheavals (*Money Week*)

An intellectually rich book that develops an important thesis with verve. It should be widely read.
(Martin Wolf *FT*)

A vital work for these times (William Easterly *Wall Street Journal*)

From the Inside Flap

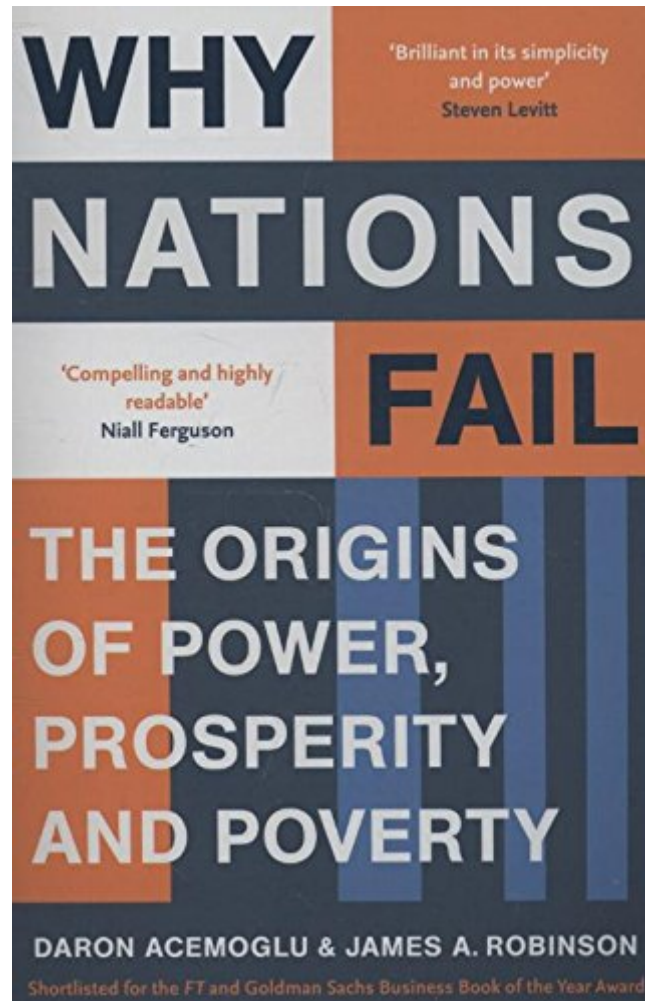
Why are some nations more prosperous than others? *Why Nations Fail* sets out to answer this question, with a compelling and elegantly argued new theory: that it is not down to climate, geography or culture, but because of institutions. Drawing on an extraordinary range of contemporary and historical examples, from ancient Rome through the Tudors to modern-day China, leading academics Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson show that to invest and prosper, people need to know that if they work hard, they can make money and actually keep it - and this means sound institutions that allow virtuous circles of innovation, expansion and peace.

Based on fifteen years of research, and answering the competing arguments of authors ranging from Max Weber to Jeffrey Sachs and Jared Diamond, Acemoglu and Robinson step boldly into the territory of Francis Fukuyama and Ian Morris. They blend economics, politics, history and current affairs to provide a new, powerful and persuasive way of understanding wealth and poverty.

Daron Acemoglu is the Killian Professor of Economics at MIT and recipient of the prestigious John Bates Clark Medal. James A. Robinson is a political scientist and economist and the David Florence Professor of Government at Harvard University, and a world-renowned expert on Latin America and Africa.

They are the authors of *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, which won numerous prizes.

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty par Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson a été vendu pour £6.49 chaque copie. Inscrivez-vous maintenant pour accéder à des milliers de livres disponibles en téléchargement gratuit. L'inscription était gratuite.



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Why Nations Fail

In the last two posts, here and here, we have argued that neither the classic Hobbesian line of the benefits of a Leviathan nor James Scott's perspective of ...

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and ...

Brilliant and engagingly written, *Why Nations Fail* answers the question that has stumped the experts for centuries: Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided ...

Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and ...

PRAISE FOR *Why Nations Fail* "Acemoglu and Robinson have made an important contribution to the debate as to why similar-looking nations differ so greatly in their ...

Mark Zuckerberg recommends 'Why Nations Fail'

Why Mark Zuckerberg wants everyone to read about the origins of global poverty

What Makes Countries Rich or Poor?

Power, prosperity, and poverty vary greatly around the world. Norway, the world's richest country, is 496 times richer than Burundi, the world's poorest country.

Extractive institutions: Are they really why nations fail?

I've written about *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* before and I think it's an amazing book that everyone should read an ...

John D Clare

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Why municipalities fail: Implications for uncertainty ...

Why Nations Fail (Acemoglu and Robinson 2012), a book widely and favorably reviewed by the business press (MacLeod 2013), identifies political and economic factors ...

Wake Up New Zealand

United Nations, John Key's New Zealand Cycle Way And Fascist Globalist Government In New Zealand - Agenda 21 . The vast majority of New Zealanders and the world in ...

Why Filipinos Remain Poor

Hard working Filipinos remain poor, watching the people of other nations in the region get rich. Revolutions come and go in Philippines, but the old ...