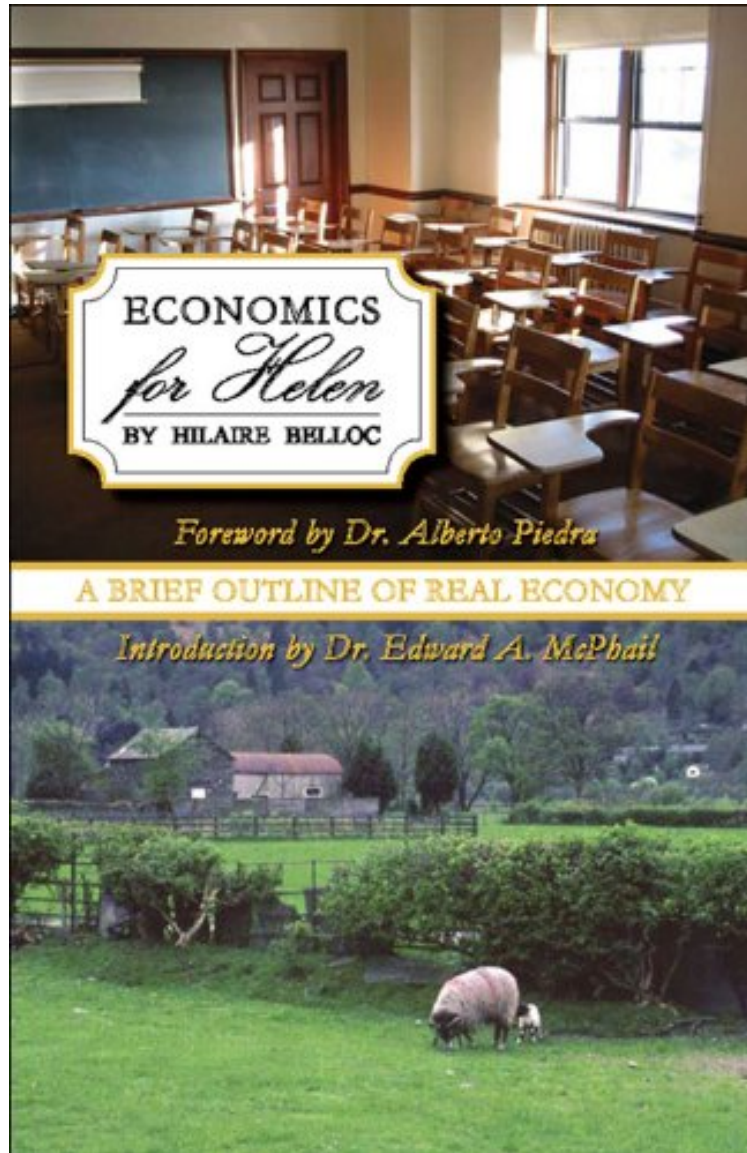


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## Economics for Helen

*Hilaire Belloc*

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**Hilaire Belloc : Economics for Helen** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Economics for Helen:

42 of 42 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding!By Michael TozerIn 1912, the great Hilaire Belloc wrote and had published one of his most important works, "The Servile State". But, though this book was well received, Belloc found that the general level of economics education in the reading public was quite poor. So, he wrote "Economics for Helen" as a needed corrective.This very important and beautifully written short book embodies nothing less than a brief, though astoundingly accurate and complete, primer on economic science. Here, Belloc

describes the essential elements of Production: Land, Labor, and Capital, and how these elements are controlled and employed in three very distinctive types of political economies: The Servile State, the Capitalist State, and the Distributive State. Belloc further argues, quite convincingly, that the Distributive State is the natural state of man, that the Capitalist State will inevitably degenerate into the Servile State, and that the Socialist State is a chimera. It is truly quite amazing how prophetic and accurate was Belloc's account written seven decades ago. In Belloc's magnificent "Louis XIV", there is a chapter on banking. I remember, on reading this book and chapter, commenting that this chapter was absolutely the best short description of the terribly complicated science of banking that I had ever seen. And, to put these comments in context, I have an MBA degree with a concentration in Finance, during which I was the top student in my class in Money and Banking. And I've over ten years of experience in the commercial banking industry. This book represents an entire exposition of the complicated science of economics, written with the same outstanding and revealing clarity. Belloc writes beautifully. Reading a Belloc is like having a conversation with an older, and very wise friend. You simply don't want it to end. But end it does. And the reader is always much better for the experience. Read this very important little book. And be richly blessed, and well informed, by the experience.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's easy to read and in line with Catholic teaching. By Agnes M. Penny I use this book for homeschooling economics in high school. It's easy to read and in line with Catholic teaching, showing the flaws of both capitalism and communism and showing the alternative -- distributivism. This edition is especially nice with illustrations.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful overview of economics - most especially for someone without ... By J. Simonds A wonderful overview of economics - most especially for someone without a financial background. Mr. Belloc writes in a crisp, clear understandable style and I found the book quite enjoyable, which I was not expecting. The principles are the same so don't think that it was written too long ago to be applicable.

This classic introduction to the basics of economic theory offers a constructive approach to economic education by defining terms and introducing key concepts without using insider jargon and complex theories. The fundamental questions about why the economy fluctuates and how small farmers, small business people, families, consumers, and innovators are affected by these fluctuations are considered. Serious alternatives to modern economic theories are explained, with attention to the realities that have been largely unchanged through the last century.

"Belloc understood the essentials of economics and presents them in his clear, entertaining and inimitable style." -- Timothy J. Cullen, former partner, Cold Mountain Capital Management, December 29, 2003 "One of [Catholic Social Teachings] most observant and capable apologists is, without question, Hilaire Belloc." -- Robert Boehm, M.B.A., former financial consultant, Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, December 13, 2003

About the Author Hilaire Belloc is a former member of parliament in the British House of Commons. He is the author of more than 100 books, including Charles I, The Free Press, and The Restoration of Property. Edward A. McPhail is an assistant professor of economics at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Alberto Piedra is a professor emeritus of economics at Catholic University of America, where he was a chairperson of the economics department.