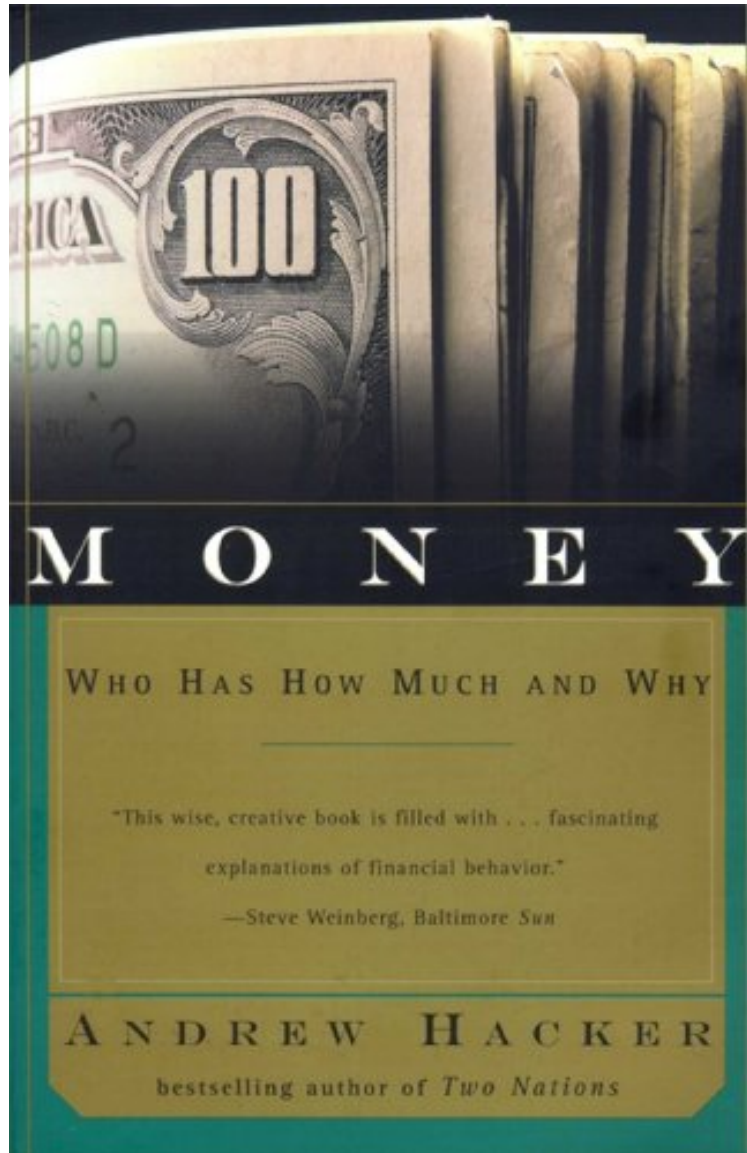


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Money: Who Has How Much and Why

Andrew Hacker

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Andrew Hacker : Money: Who Has How Much and Why before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Money: Who Has How Much and Why:

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Brief Response to Brian Carey's review By A Customer As a former student of Professor Hacker, I've developed much respect for the man. While that certainly biases my opinion of his books (as I do view him as the God of Political Science), I know that I will always be getting a fresh perspective as I've never known anyone who could "cut the crap" better than Professor Hacker. One of the most important lessons I learned from him is to always read between the lines; so that we may learn to think beyond the 68% norm. While Dr.

Hacker could certainly fill hundreds of more pages with his insightful comments and statistical analyses, he knows that in between the lines, there is a whole other book yet to be created by the reader. I regret not having learned that until after he had already given me my final grade.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. 3.5 stars for the Mad Statistician
By Q Kwache Macheng
A mack daddy of statistical research analysis, the author pulls off another grand compilation of information relating to the title. The fun part about reading his stuff is that the stats are easy for everyone to see and relate, in other words its very simple...and he throws in tidbits of information that you won't be able to catch if you read too fast...for example for every \$1000.00 the descendents of the puritans make the descendents of the ex-enslaved make \$700.00, which means that they are making approximately three quarters of what they were approximately said to be worth almost two hundred and fifty years ago. whew, some stat...

2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Thinly veiled class warfare
By K. Gordon
I am disappointed to have bought this book. More judgmental than analytical, the author clearly has an agenda and presents many one-sided arguments in support of it, resulting in numerous rhetorical fouls (e.g. completely ignoring the important distinction between statistical correlation and causation) in addition to complete dismissal of basic economic tenets. The statistics presented are quite unidimensional and are given with opinion frequently presented as fact. After conventional attacks on the very real problems of CEO salary levels and increasing gaps between our nation's very rich and very poor, the book takes a turn for the surreal. To wit, while questioning salary differentiation between different types of medical specialists: "While we allow ourselves to be entranced by the mysteries of medicine, none of us really knows whether orthopedic surgery is any more complicated than overhauling a transmission. We know that police officers deliver babies with no ill effects, and on at least one occasion, a submarine corpsman has performed a successful appendectomy. Much of medicine now depends on high-tech equipment, which most of us wouldn't know how to plug in. As it happens, doctors are just as baffled by it." The author offers this passage and many like it without trace of irony, satire, or devil's advocacy. If you are the type to argue that we will run out of a natural commodity in XX years by linearly projecting today's consumption rate into the future while ignoring the impact of increasing scarcity on prices and economic viability of substitutions (and therefore decreased demand levels and consumption rates), then this book is for you.

Described by Newsweek as "a political scientist doing with statistics what Fred Astaire did with hats, canes, and chairs...he makes them live and breathe," Andrew Hacker provides a comprehensive portrayal of income and wealth in American society. Combining keen insight with a flair for bringing a human dimension to facts and figures, bestselling author Andrew Hacker shows how the changing economy affects our lives. His clear-eyed analysis illuminates the real results of women's fight for salary parity, the impact of affirmative action on the income of minorities, the effect immigration has on the job market, and more.

.com A staple of American conversation, from barstools to sermons to op-ed pages, is that money isn't everything. And yet it seems that nowadays, nothing else counts nearly so much. In this book, Andrew Hacker, an eminent sociologist, uses his knack for making statistics come alive to address such questions as "Has affirmative action helped African-Americans financially?," "Do the same professions that used to ensure lifelong economic security still do so?," and "Are the rich getting richer, and if so, why aren't the poor doing better as well?" Hacker doesn't conclude with a call for income redistribution--he doesn't think it would be heeded--but the facts he amasses tell the story of a country that inordinately promotes non-social ambition and, just as excessively, penalizes children.

From Library Journal
In his best-selling *Two Nations* (LJ 3/15/92), political scientist Hacker examined the role of race in the social and economic life of America. In his latest work, he argues that an equally enormous financial division separates Americans. He explains why there are increasingly more individuals at the extremes of the income scale while the middle is contracting. Besides the income gap between blacks and whites, Hacker shows where immigrants stand on the income scale, and he assesses the financial disparities between the sexes. He also explores how other elements?e.g., greed, talent, and education?are factored into the income gap equation. Hacker combines detailed data on individual incomes and wealth in the United States with an exceptional analysis of economic and social class divisions. His well-researched work will interest scholars and students as well as the general public. Recommended for academic and public libraries.

?Ali Abdulla, East Carolina Univ., Greenville, N.C.
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From Kirkus
Anecdotal audits of American assets and incomes that (like Wall Street's jest about economists laid end-to-end) never reaches a conclusion. Drawing on scores of secondary sources, Hacker (Political Science/Queens College; *Two Nations*, 1992, etc.) offers a hit-or-miss canvas of what well-paid, or at least well-regarded, US citizens make for working at various trades and their net worths. Inter alia, he provides selective data on the earning power of doctors, lawyers, and corporate chiefs, plus a host of other high-profile callings, including coaches of big-time college teams, film stars, school teachers, sports professionals, university professors. Conspicuous by their absence, however, are dentists, entrepreneurs (who, the author breezily asserts, can pay themselves anything they want), fashion models, songwriters, and tax collectors. Not too surprisingly, given the temper of the times, the top officers of publicly held enterprises are singled out for special, somewhat snide attention, in which the link of handsome pay packages to a

company's success is breezily dismissed. Courtesy of Forbes magazine, the author also includes a briefing on what it takes to qualify for a list of the wealthiest Americans. Covered as well in no great depth are such hot topics as: the widening gap between the incomes of those on the upper and lower rungs of the socioeconomic ladder; the persistent disparity between the earnings of blacks and whites, men and women, and immigrants and native-born; and the author's calculations of what constitutes a living wage. All but ignored, by contrast, are the influences of credit, non-monetary motivations, and supply/demand forces on income. An academic's discontinuous and vaguely discontented survey of the way the money goes in latter-day America. -- Copyright copy;1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.