

## The Affluent Society Galbraith

The Essential Galbraith  
 NONFICTION CLASSICS FOR STUDENTS  
 The Anatomy of Power  
 The Affluent Society  
 The Great Crash 1929  
 Economics and the Public Purpose  
 The Affluent Society  
 John Kenneth Galbraith  
 John Kenneth Galbraith  
 The Affluent Society Revisited  
 The Legacy of John Kenneth Galbraith  
 Economics in Perspective  
 The Affluent Society  
 Summary of John Kenneth Galbraith's The Affluent Society  
 A Life in Our Times  
 The Culture of Contentment  
 The Affluent Society  
 A Study Guide for John Kenneth Galbraith's "The Affluent Society"  
 Interviews with John Kenneth Galbraith  
 The affluent society  
 A Tenured Professor  
 Money  
 Economics in Perspective  
 John Kenneth Galbraith: The Affluent Society & Other Writings 1952-1967 (LOA #208)  
 A Study Guide for John Kenneth Galbraith's "The Affluent Society"  
 The Selected Letters of John Kenneth Galbraith  
 The Affluent Society  
 The 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time  
 A Short History of Financial Euphoria  
 The New Industrial State  
 Letters to Kennedy  
 The Affluent Society Revisited  
 The Good Society  
 Money  
 Affluent Society  
 The Affluent Society Revisited  
 Name-Dropping  
 A History of Economics  
 The Nature of Mass Poverty

*The Affluent Society Galbraith*

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### NYASIA SKINNER

*The Essential Galbraith* Princeton University Press

With searing wit and incisive commentary, John Kenneth Galbraith redefined America's perception of itself in *The New Industrial State*, one of his landmark works. The United States is no longer a free-enterprise society, Galbraith argues, but a structured state controlled by the largest companies. Advertising is the means by which these companies manage demand and create consumer "need" where none previously existed. Multinational corporations are the continuation of this power system on an international level. The goal of these companies is not the betterment of society, but immortality through an uninterrupted stream of earnings. First published in 1967, *The New Industrial State* continues to resonate today.

NONFICTION CLASSICS FOR STUDENTS HarperAudio

Incisive and original, John Kenneth Galbraith wrote with an eloquence that burst the conventions of his discipline and won a readership none of his fellow economists could match. This Library of

America volume, the first devoted to economics, gathers four of his key early works, the books that established him as one of the leading public intellectuals of the last century. In *American Capitalism*, Galbraith exposes with great panache the myth of American free-market competition. The idea that an impersonal market sets prices and wages, and maintains balance between supply and demand, remained so vital in American economic thought, Galbraith argued, because oligopolistic American businessmen never acknowledged their collective power. Also overlooked was the way that groups such as unions and regulatory agencies react to large oligopolies by exerting countervailing power—a concept that was the book's lasting contribution. *The Great Crash, 1929* offers a gripping account of the most legendary (and thus misunderstood) financial collapse in American history, as well as an inquiry into why it led to sustained depression. Galbraith posits five reasons: unusually high income inequality; a bad, overleveraged corporate structure; an unsound banking system; unbalanced foreign trade; and, finally, "the poor state of economic intelligence." His account is a trenchant analysis of the 1929 crisis and a cautionary tale of ignorance and hubris among stock-market players; not surprisingly, the book was again a bestseller in the wake of the 2008 economic collapse. In *The Affluent Society*, the book that

introduced the phrase "the conventional wisdom" into the American lexicon, Galbraith takes on a shibboleth of free-market conservatives and Keynesian liberals alike: the paramount importance of production. For Galbraith, the American mania for production continued even in an era of unprecedented affluence, when the basic needs of all but an impoverished minority had easily been met. Thus the creation of new and spurious needs through advertising—leading to skyrocketing consumer debt, and eventually a private sector that is glutted at the expense of a starved public sector. *The New Industrial State* stands as the most developed exposition of Galbraith's major themes. Examining the giant postwar corporations, Galbraith argued that the "technostructure" necessary for such vast organizations—comprising specialists in operations, marketing, and R&D—is primarily concerned with reducing risk, not with maximizing profits; it perpetuates stability through "the planning system." The book concludes with a prescient analysis of the "educational and scientific estate," which prefigures the "information economy" that has emerged since the book was published. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series

includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

[The Anatomy of Power](#) Princeton University Press

“Graceful and often witty” insights from the legendary economist, drawn from his most influential works (Library Journal). The Essential Galbraith includes key selections from the most important works of John Kenneth Galbraith, one of the most distinguished writers of our time—from *The Affluent Society*, the groundbreaking book in which he coined the term “conventional wisdom,” to *The Great Crash*, an unsurpassed account of the events that triggered America’s worst economic crisis. Galbraith’s new introductions place the works in their historical moment and make clear their enduring relevance for the new century. The Essential Galbraith will delight old admirers and introduce one of our most beloved writers to a new generation of readers. It is also an indispensable resource for scholars and students of economics, history, and politics, offering unparalleled access to the seminal writings of an extraordinary thinker.

**The Affluent Society** Cambridge University Press

This book provides an intellectual portrait of John Kenneth Galbraith, an institutional economist who examines the configuration of power by the clusters of mores that comprise institutions. Galbraith proposes an aggressive social democratic policy to achieve social and economic reform. This policy includes explicit recognition that the state must intervene to countervail the power of entrenched political economic interests and to provide generous support of the arts and letters to achieve the affirmation of humanity.

**The Great Crash 1929** Harvard University Press

Money is nothing more than what is commonly exchanged for goods or services, so why has understanding it become so complicated? In *Money*, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith cuts through the confusions surrounding the subject to present a compelling and accessible account of a topic that affects us all. He tells the fascinating story of money, the key factors that shaped its development, and the lessons that can be learned from its history. He describes the creation and evolution of monetary systems and explains how finance, credit, and banks work in the global economy. Galbraith also shows that, when it comes to money, nothing is truly new—least of all inflation and fraud.

*Economics and the Public Purpose* Princeton University Press

The legendary economist explains how a nation can remain both compassionate and fiscally sound, with “common sense raised to the level of genius” (The New Yorker). This compact, eloquent book offers a blueprint for a workable national agenda that allows for human weakness without compromising a humane culture. Arguing that it is in the best interest of the United States to avoid excessive wealth and income inequality, and to safeguard the well-being of its citizens, he explores how the goal of a good society can be achieved in an economically feasible way. Touching on topics from regulation, inflation, and deficits to education, the environment, bureaucracy, and the military, Galbraith avoids purely partisan or rigid ideological politics—instead addressing practical problems with logic and well-thought-out principles. “Carefully reasoned . . . the pragmatically liberal Galbraith [argues] that both socialism and complete surrender to market forces are irrelevant as guides to public action.” —Publishers Weekly

*The Affluent Society* Farrar, Straus and Giroux

In this Brief, Accessible Book, The Distinguished Teacher and former President of the American Economic Association, John Kenneth Galbraith, records his views on such critical subjects as what the goals of a socially concerned society should be today, reflections on the principles of distribution of wealth, flaws in the market system, the state of higher education, and related aspects of society and the economy.

[John Kenneth Galbraith](#) Gale, Cengage Learning

In *Economics in Perspective*, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith presents a compelling and accessible history of economic ideas, from Aristotle through the twentieth century. Examining theories of the past that have a continuing modern resonance, he shows that economics is not a

timeless, objective science, but is continually evolving as it is shaped by specific times and places. From Adam Smith’s theories during the Industrial Revolution to those of John Maynard Keynes after the Great Depression, Galbraith demonstrates that if economic ideas are to remain relevant, they must continually adapt to the world they inhabit. A lively examination of economic thought in historical context, *Economics in Perspective* shows how the field has evolved across the centuries. *John Kenneth Galbraith* Princeton University Press

Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 Wealth is not without its advantages, but it is also the enemy of understanding. The poor man has always had a clear understanding of his problem and its solution: he hasn’t enough and he needs more. The rich man can assume a much greater variety of ills and he will be less certain of their solution. #2 The first task is to see the way our economic attitudes are rooted in the poverty, inequality, and economic peril of the past. Then we must examine the devices and arguments by which we have managed to maintain an association with the older ideas, which stemmed from a world where nearly all were poor. #3 This essay is not an angry one. It does not lack in that beguiling modesty which is so much in fashion in social comment. It contains many negative thoughts, and they cannot but strike a discordant note in a world of positive thinking. #4 The problems of an affluent world that does not understand itself may be serious, but they are not as serious as those of a poor world where the simple exigencies of poverty preclude the luxury of misunderstanding.

*The Affluent Society Revisited* Springer

On the economics of abundance

[The Legacy of John Kenneth Galbraith](#) HMH

“[A] charming memoir [that] serves to remind us that idealism and trust once existed in the White House and Washington, a fact that may seem unbelievable” (Newsday). A New York Times Notable Book “Names? You want names? No one knows better ones than John Kenneth Galbraith,” says the San Diego Union-Tribune. Name-Dropping covers the long and remarkable career of this economist and former ambassador, charting sixty-five years of politics, government, and American history as he writes of the many people he has known—among them Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Adlai Stevenson, and Jawaharlal Nehru—“with a wit, style, and elegance few can match” (Library Journal). This “mischievously and merrily unrepentant” memoir offers a rich and uniquely personal history of the twentieth century—a history the author himself helped to shape (The Boston Globe). “Shrewd, irreverent, penetrating, and hilarious.” —Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. “It is not usual for a man past his 90th birthday to write a book that is as fresh and lively as the work of a 30-year-old. But John Kenneth Galbraith is not a usual man, and he has done it.” —The New York Times

Princeton University Press

This book revisits John Kenneth Galbraith’s *The Affluent Society* from the perspective of the background to, and causes of, the 2008 global economic crisis. Each chapter takes a major theme of his book, distils Galbraith’s arguments, and then discusses to what extent they cast light on current developments.

*Economics in Perspective* Princeton University Press

This title revisits John Kenneth Galbraith’s ‘*The Affluent Society*’ from the perspective of the background to, and causes of, the 2008 global economic crisis. Each chapter takes a major theme of his book, distils Galbraith’s arguments, and then discusses to what extent they cast light on current developments.

*The Affluent Society* Univ. Press of Mississippi

This book revisits John Kenneth Galbraith’s classic text *The Affluent Society* in the context of the background to, and causes of, the global economic crisis that erupted in 2008. Each chapter takes a major theme of Galbraith’s book, distils his arguments, and then discusses to what extent they cast light on current developments, both in developed economies and in the economics discipline. The themes include: inequality, insecurity, inflation, debt, consumer behaviour, financialization, the economic role of government (‘social balance’), the power of ideas, the role of power in the

economy, and the nature of the good society. It considers the current problems of capitalism and the huge challenges facing democratic governments in tackling them. Written in non-technical language, this book is accessible to students of economics and the social sciences as well as to those who would have read *The Affluent Society* and the general reader interested in contemporary affairs and public policy.

*Summary of John Kenneth Galbraith’s The Affluent Society* HMH

Money is nothing more than what is commonly exchanged for goods or services, so why has understanding it become so complicated? In *Money*, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith cuts through the confusions surrounding the subject to present a compelling and accessible account of a topic that affects us all. He tells the fascinating story of money, the key factors that shaped its development, and the lessons that can be learned from its history. He describes the creation and evolution of monetary systems and explains how finance, credit, and banks work in the global economy. Galbraith also shows that, when it comes to money, nothing is truly new—least of all inflation and fraud.

[A Life in Our Times](#) Corgi

The Selected Letters of John Kenneth Galbraith invites readers to join in conversations with presidents and first ladies, diplomats and schoolchildren, the McCarthy ‘loyalty board’, foreign heads of state and fellow economists, and a host of other correspondents. In his long and cosmopolitan life, Galbraith wrote thousands of letters, and Richard P. F. Holt has selected the most important of these from his archival research, now available in print for the first time. The letters provide an intimate account of the three main political goals to which Galbraith devoted his professional life: ending war, fighting poverty, and improving quality of life by achieving a balance between private and public goods in an affluent capitalist society. Showing his thoughtful insights and charming wit, this collection confirms Galbraith as a man of broad learning, superb literary skills, and deeply held progressive ideals.

[The Culture of Contentment](#) OUP Oxford

In *Economics in Perspective*, renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith presents a compelling and accessible history of economic ideas, from Aristotle through the twentieth century. Examining theories of the past that have a continuing modern resonance, he shows that economics is not a timeless, objective science, but is continually evolving as it is shaped by specific times and places. From Adam Smith’s theories during the Industrial Revolution to those of John Maynard Keynes after the Great Depression, Galbraith demonstrates that if economic ideas are to remain relevant, they must continually adapt to the world they inhabit. A lively examination of economic thought in historical context, *Economics in Perspective* shows how the field has evolved across the centuries.

**The Affluent Society** Routledge

Beginning in 1611 with the King James Bible and ending in 2014 with Elizabeth Kolbert’s ‘The Sixth Extinction’, this extraordinary voyage through the written treasures of our culture examines universally-acclaimed classics such as Pepys’ ‘Diaries’, Charles Darwin’s ‘The Origin of Species’, Stephen Hawking’s ‘A Brief History of Time’ and a whole host of additional works -- *A Study Guide for John Kenneth Galbraith’s “The Affluent Society”* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Proving that he is not a dupe of the administration, freshman Harvard Professor Montgomery Marvin sets academic teeth on edge when he moonlights as a corporate raider and donates his profits to charity. Reissue.

[Interviews with John Kenneth Galbraith](#) The Affluent Society

The world-renowned economist offers “dourly irreverent analyses of financial debacle from the tulip craze of the seventeenth century to the recent plague of junk bonds.” —The Atlantic. With incomparable wisdom, skill, and wit, world-renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith traces the history of the major speculative episodes in our economy over the last three centuries. Exposing the ways in which normally sane people display reckless behavior in pursuit of profit, Galbraith asserts that our “notoriously short” financial memory is what creates the conditions for market collapse. By recognizing these signs and understanding what causes them we can guard against future recessions and have a better hold on our country’s (and our own) financial destiny.

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