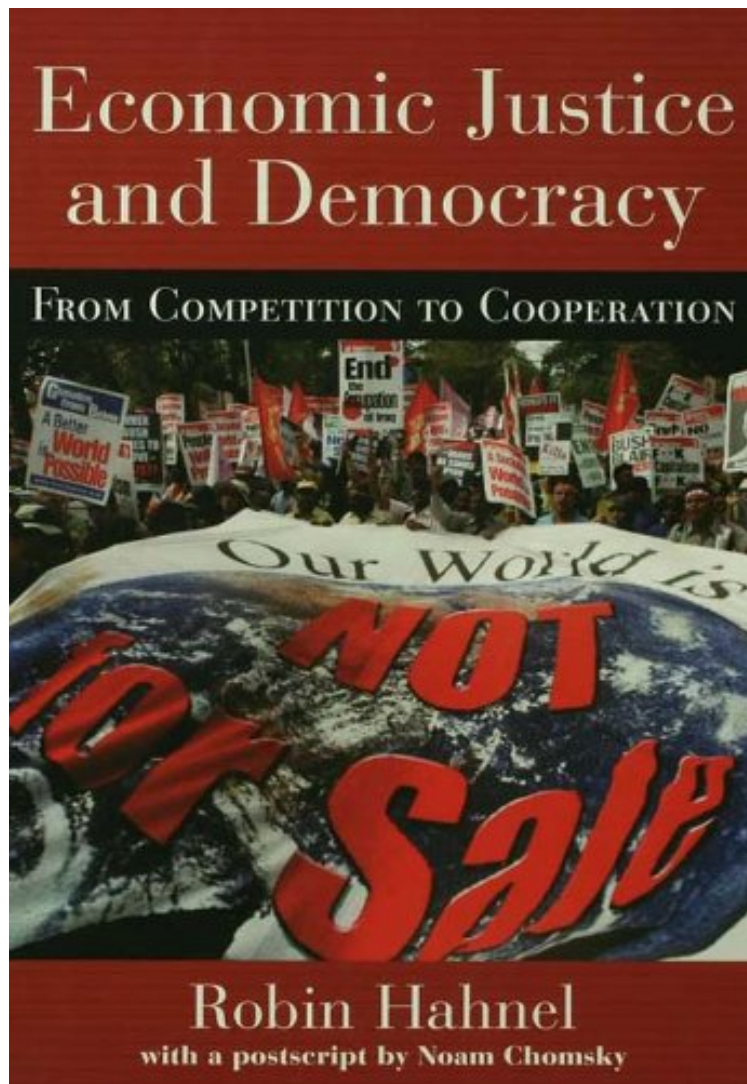


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Economic Justice and Democracy: From Competition to Cooperation (Pathways Through the Twenty-First Century)

Robin Hahnel

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Robin Hahnel : Economic Justice and Democracy: From Competition to Cooperation (Pathways Through the Twenty-First Century) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Economic Justice and Democracy: From Competition to Cooperation (Pathways Through the Twenty-First Century):

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. News from NowhereBy Ben S. LeetThe late Victorian artist William Morris wrote a short novel about a man waking up one morning into a socialist world. He was transported

instantaneously into a new cultural and economic world where coins and money were artifacts suitable only for display in a museum. Robin Hahnel's book is a counterpart to this utopic dream, but unlike fantasy, it is a thorough struggle and wrestling with the idea of how to transition from a competitive and profit-oriented economic system to a system based on need and cooperation and human sensitivity. He deals with history of socialist movements, past and present, small and large, with reforms in taxation, labor standards, labor bargaining power, global imbalances, living wages; and he covers the anticorporate and environmental and consumer-producer cooperatives and poverty movements. It is thorough. Admittedly it would be better just to wake up one morning into that utopia, but this book is about the next best thing. I am grateful he wrote it. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A brilliant, comprehensive re-casting of democratic socialist ideas for the Twenty-First Century By Shayn McCallum This book fully deserves to become a key text in college courses on issues of economic justice and democratic political theory. Based firmly in the important, although historically neglected, libertarian socialist tradition, this text is an exceptionally comprehensive critical appraisal of late capitalism and the various attempts to create alternatives to it. Robin Hahnel's principled, committed, non-dogmatic and thoroughly people-oriented approach to political economy is a refreshing and much-needed reboot on issues of democracy and justice that are still suffering the after-shocks of Cold-War era entrenched positions. Hahnel's socialism is of the thoroughly democratic variety that rejects both the compromise of essential principles for the sake of power that has often characterised social democracy, as well as the rigid, dogmatic positions of the authoritarian Left. The result is a powerful and convincing argument for a radically democratic model of society governed more fully "by the people and for the people", born of a flexible, pluralistic and principled approach to political-economy. Readers of this book would also benefit from reading Michael Albert's "Parecon". 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful analysis and a truly inspiring economic vision By Joonah-Hermann Maun;kinen Robin Hahnel critically examines capitalism in its many forms and communist central planning, and at the end of the book introduces the vision of participatory economics to the reader. Hahnel's writing is eloquent and also accessible. Hahnel's analysis on Scandinavian social democracies is especially important these days, when reforms based on free-market-ideology are spreading throughout social democracies in Europe. If you want to learn about economics, this book is a must read.

In *Economic Justice and Democracy*, Robin Hahnel puts aside most economic theories from the left and the right (from central planning to unbridled corporate enterprise) as undemocratic, and instead outlines a plan for restructuring the relationship between markets and governments according to effects, rather than contributions. This idea is simple, provocative, and turns most arguments on their heads: those most affected by a decision get to make it. It's uncomplicated, unquestionably American in its freedom-reinforcement, and essentially what anti-globalization protestors are asking for. Companies would be more accountable to their consumers, polluters to nearby homeowners, would-be factory closers to factory town inhabitants. Sometimes what's good for General Motors is bad for America, which is why we have regulations in the first place. Though participatory economics, as Robert Heilbroner termed has been discussed more outside America than in it, Hahnel has followed discussions elsewhere and also presents many of the arguments for and against this system and ways to put it in place.

"Can cooperation and democracy supplant greed and competition as the organizing principles of our economic lives? Robin Hahnel wrestles relentlessly and insightfully with this profound question throughout this wide-ranging study. *ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY* provides one serious roadmap toward a more just and egalitarian society; and as such, makes an important contribution toward the revival of the socialist tradition.."-Robert Pollin, Professor of Economics and Co-Director, Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), University of Massachusetts-Amherst "Robin Hahnel's book is an excellent overview of the principles of economic justice, and the practical and theoretical flaws of both capitalism and the various attempts to reform or eliminate it. But it's far more than critique; it's also a blueprint for a better society, and offers plenty of ideas on how to get there. Even if you're not fully convinced, it will make you think. And how many books do that?."-Doug Henwood, Editor, *Left Business Observer* "Robin Hahnel breaks new ground here in articulating his vision of a participatory economy and-equally important-in showing how progress may be made toward this long-run goal within the interstices of the current capitalist system. *Economic Justice and Democracy* is essential reading for anyone concerned about overcoming the ravages of contemporary world capitalism and building a better society."-Thomas E. Weisskopf, Professor of Economics, University of Michigan. "Robin Hahnel's path-breaking book reconceptualizes our understanding of economic justice and economic democracy. This immensely readable and inspiring work should be on the bookshelf of every academic, activist and citizen who is seriously interested in creating a just and democratic world economy in the 21st century."-Ilene Grabel, Associate Professor of International Finance, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver "Robin Hahnel's new book, *Economic Justice and Democracy*, is an ambitious work of political history, a cogent critique of capitalism and its main contenders, and a visionary venture vibrating with hope and possibility. As such, it is a crucial book for our contemporary moment.."-Jules Boykoff, Whitman College About the Author Robin Hahnel is Professor of Economics at American University. His most recent book is *The ABCs of Political Economy*.

He is co-author with Michael Albert of *The Political Economy of Participatory Economics*. He has been active in many social movements and organizations over the past forty years, most recently with the Southern Maryland Greens and Green Party USA.