



The Great Unraveling: Losing Our Way in the New Century

Paul Krugman

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No one has more authority to call the shots the way they really are than award-winning economist Paul Krugman, whose provocative *New York Times* columns are keenly followed by millions. One of the world's most respected economists, Krugman has been named America's most important columnist by the *Washington Monthly* and columnist of the year by *Editor and Publisher* magazine.

A major bestseller, this influential and wide-ranging book has been praised by *BusinessWeek* as Krugman's "most provocative and compelling effort yet," the *New York Review of Books* as "refreshing," and *Library Journal* as "thought-provoking...even funny." *The American Prospect* put it in vivid terms: "In a time when too few tell it like it is...[Krugman] has taken on the battle of our time."

Built from Paul Krugman's influential Op-Ed columns for the *New York Times*, this book galvanized the reading public. With wit, passion, and a unique ability to explain complex issues in plain English, Krugman describes how the nation has been misled by a dishonest administration.

In this long-awaited work containing Krugman's most influential columns along with new commentary, he chronicles how the boom economy unraveled: how exuberance gave way to pessimism, how the age of corporate heroes gave way to corporate scandals, how fiscal responsibility collapsed. From his account of the secret history of the California energy crisis to his devastating dissections of dishonesty in the Bush administration, from the war in Iraq to the looting of California to the false pretenses used to sell an economic policy that benefits only a small elite, Krugman tells the uncomfortable truth like no one else. And he gives us the road map we will need to follow if we are to get the country back on track.

The paperback edition features a new introduction as well as new writings.

The Great Unraveling: Losing Our Way in the New Century Details

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From Reader Review The Great Unraveling: Losing Our Way in the New Century for online ebook

Gary Turner says

An accurate chronicle of the greedy takeover of our democracy with the help of the regressive Republican party and their cocotte leaders George Bush and Dick Cheney and many others.

Dan says

Krugman is brilliant, his topics are wide-ranging, and his grounding as an economist means that his ideas are supported in such a way that whatever your political views, you can engage with this book in a useful way (unlike, say, Bill O'Reilly's or Al Franken's books). Note of caution to those left of center, and therefore more apt to agree with Krugman: You will be completely outraged.

Raghu oddiraju says

I just finished reading this book and the timing could not have been better. With all the talk going about "Fiscal Cliff" etc., Paul really lays it out to you how policies are made at the highest level. It is always interesting to know about power, money and how they go hand-in-hand.
Though you don't have to believe everything he says, it is still a good read.
I plan on reading his other works after this.

Aaron says

For those of you who don't believe that history repeats itself, I defy you to read this book and not draw parallels between the current administration and the last Republican presidential shenanigans, which is when this collection of Paul Krugman's columns was originally written. At certain points, I'm sure that Krugman could easily change the names of the players and simply submit the column again. This, of course, makes this a somewhat depressing, though eye-opening read, particularly if you share my particular political bent. Frustrating to say the least as we live through this nonsense.

Dv Prasad says

It scares me a lot. If all this is true and US of A can elect such a president twice, what else is that country capable(sic) of?

On a side note, India is not even mentioned once. That's how relevant India is to USA.

Larry says

A penetrating look at the partisanship and elitism of the Bush administration by an economist with a rapier like wit (hard to believe, eh?) The mendacity and self aggrandizement of the Bush crew is apparent to all. The sheer hubris is breath taking, something the world hasn't seen since Joseph Goebbels. Alas we all are to blame as we had two chances to stop all this and we did not do it. Let's not make that mistake again, ever.

Reid says

Krugman is just right on over and over again. The financial mess we find ourselves in was pretty much predicted by him in 2002 to 2004 where he says over and over, the mendacity and malfeasance, the shirking and ducking of accountability, oversight, regulation will lead to a loss of investor confidence, market collapse, etc.

Now he has a Nobel Prize and the satisfaction of watching all he said would likely happen, happen.

Benjamin says

The format of this book, a collection of newspaper columns, makes it excellent for reading on the bus or the subway. It's also interesting to see what Krugman was writing as events unfolded compared to the conventional wisdom then and now. I wish more of what Krugman predicted so many years ago had not turned out to be right.

Kathleen says

Top notch writing, insightful, compelling analysis of the economic debacle of the Bush administration, the effects of which we are painfully feeling now and will continue to feel for years to come. Paul Krugman is articulate, well-informed, with a keen eye for seeing through BS. A must-read and still as meaningful today as when it was written.

Dean Moberly says

I tend to be very cautious when reading anything current about politics... especially when it comes from a writer who shares my feelings and views (e.g. Dick Cheney eats babies for breakfast). Krugman is an economist and Op Ed columnist for The New York Times who approaches the state of our country without the hysteria of a Fox News host or any number of Vanity Fair contributors. Occasionally confessing where his theories and forecasts on the economy have gone wrong, he earns points for an open mind and humility. That being said, his portrait of the Bush administration (including the inheritance of eight years of Clinton) is terrifying. The greater evil that has taken place may not be the misguided war abroad, but the total disregard for the law here in this country. George Bush may be the figurehead, but his cronies in government and corporate America are just as terrifying as any terrorist with a pilots license and a sack of cash.

Chris Brimmer says

Lucid writing that the layman should understand. It is an excellent collection with great organization. It is the intelligent answer to the Republican assertion that no one saw the "great recession" coming.

Jim says

I like Paul Krugman, and this collection of his op-ed pieces for the NY Times written between 2000 and 2003 has stimulated me to follow him closer at his blog. There is no doubt that he makes a strong case in this book for his contention (with which I agree) that there is a right-wing movement in this country that is taking control of our politics and our economy. This was his contention in 2003, and I don't think it has changed since then.

As much as I agree with and commiserate with Paul Krugman and his arguments, I found this book to be repetitive - this is probably because it is a collection of previously written op-ed pieces as opposed to a "new book."

It would be interesting to read a similar collection of Krugman's commentaries now in 2015 to get his current views on the last several years of the Obama Administration and the Republicans' avowed efforts to thwart everything the President wants to do and accomplish - simply for the sake of thwarting him.

Irene says

His columns written while the events of the Bush administration were happening were enlightening and explained the mistakes and the consequences of the foolish war in Iraq. Trying to turn Iraq into a Haliburton gas station has blown up and caused this country dearly and we will continue to pay for this terrible mistake for many more years to come.

Paul W says

You might think this refers to the GFC (aka the Great Recession in the US). You'd be wrong. It is actually a series of newspaper articles written in 2001 and 2002. Krugman's articles were challenging so many of the US policies that were ultimately to result in the GFC in 2008/9. The recession in 2001 turns out to have been a trial run of the much deeper malaise of 2008, but with many of the same underlying causes. In 1998 when commenting on the debt build up in the US he presciently noted: "there's an Ice Age just over the horizon". It arrived in 2009.

Hawkgirl says

Still good stuff in here even though some of his compiled columns are more than 15 years old.
