



FairTax: The Truth: Answering the Critics

Neal Boortz, John Linder, Bob Woodall

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In 2005, firebrand radio talk show host Neal Boortz and Georgia congressman John Linder created *The FairTax Book*, presenting the American public with a bold new plan designed to eliminate federal taxes and the IRS, jump-start the U.S. economy, bring back lost industries and jobs, and recapture billions of untaxed dollars hoarded by criminal and offshore businesses. Their book became an immediate #1 *New York Times* bestseller, propelling a powerful grassroots tax reform movement that's spreading like wildfire across our nation.

Now, three years later, the authors are back to answer the outspoken and misinformed critics of their innovative proposal. Offering eye-opening new insights not covered in the original book, *FairTax: The Truth* debunks the negative myths and gross misrepresentations of this groundbreaking idea. The FairTax plan is simple, brilliant, and it will work—enabling you to keep all the money in your paycheck; eliminating the fraud, hassle, and waste of our current system; and revolutionizing the way America pays for itself.

FairTax: The Truth: Answering the Critics Details

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From Reader Review FairTax: The Truth: Answering the Critics for online ebook

Zach Goldman says

I never thought I'd be saying this about a book about taxes, but "FairTax: The Truth" is a page-turner from beginning to end. Neal Boortz and Rep. John Linder do a phenomenal job of articulating the FairTax in a way that allow everyday Americans without a background in Economics to understand the FairTax and why it is a superior solution to our current income tax system.

The premise of the book is simple: our current tax code is a mess. There are 67,000 pages of regulations in our current tax code, hundreds of billions of dollars being spent just to comply with them, and businesses moving their investments overseas to avoid being hit by the second highest corporate income tax among industrialized nations. The solution to all of this? The FairTax.

The FairTax, to summarize very briefly, is an idea to remove the plethora of federal taxes we currently have: federal income tax, payroll tax, capital gains tax, estate tax, corporate income tax, etc... and replace it with a uniform federal consumption tax of 23%. That's it. No more complex tax regulations that nobody understands, no more April 15th, no more Internal Revenue Service, no more politicians amending the tax code to punish one demographic and rewarding another for the purpose of receiving more votes. This book goes into the details of the FairTax, explaining why it will work, how it will affect you, and why you should support it.

Most Americans agree that tax reform is needed in this country. If you are a tax-payer, you need to read this book and see why the FairTax is THE tax reform we need in this country today.

Nicole says

I've had this book sitting in my shelf since it came out. I bought it because I wanted to learn more about the Fair Tax, but every time I would think of reading it, I would talk myself out of it because I figured that a book about taxes would be boring. I finally read it and, well, was I wrong! This is a great book. It is short and written in a conversational style, so it was very easy to get through. It was very interesting and I really enjoyed reading it. It presented the Fair Tax and addressed most of the criticisms against it in a straightforward way.

Anna says

If I could give this book twenty stars, I would. Everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, needs to read this book. Members of Congress, teachers, even teenagers. If you pay taxes, pick up this book. When I first saw it, I thought I could not bear to read a non-fiction book about taxes. But I cannot put it down. I didn't read the first book, but I really don't think it matters if you read the original before you read this.

The writing was clear and concise. Even if you are not a supporter of the Fair Tax, the explanations of our current tax system are valuable. I really believe that if all Americans read this book, Congress would be

forced to work on comprehensive tax reform because of the public demand.

I checked this book out of the library, but I am going to buy it now so that I can lend it out as many times as possible!

Cristi-Ana Montesanto says

Title: FairTax: The Truth

Author(s): Neal Boortz, John Linder

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I regard this title as the jewel in the crown of Round #1.

Only recently did I have the opportunity to discover FairTax. While listening to the content, I became aware that this concept was already far ahead of its time. I was more than surprised to find out it has not been yet implemented. I was not at all surprised to find out that foreign leaders are interested in implementing this American concept in their countries.

What are we all waiting for? Who should take over the world leadership? I always thought it can only be America. I am worried that if America refuses FairTax somebody else will implement it first and take over. Who could ever do it better than America? The energies of this unique idea are phenomenal. All the contributors are definitely spiritual geniuses. We can regard FairTax as an exponential event.

A NOTE ON THE SIDE

The book identifies as the initiators of FairTax a group of men, all experts, all givers, all committed to the improvement of our world. I wondered why not one woman made it into the team at the beginning of the project. I have no answer. But based on the energies, I have a suggestion to make: Could the team imagine starting a mentoring program for women interested in high status political positions that embrace FairTax and manifest it? Is there one American woman aspiring to the presidency and who puts on her agenda FairTax and her determination to implement it?

This is the end of Round #1.

I look forward to sharing more of my Energetic Book Reviews in Round #2.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me over my website.

May many enlightening books come your way!

Lots of light and fun,

Cristi-Ana

Cami says

This was a great follow up to the first FairTax book by these authors. I do think it is a good idea to read the first book also because you get a better idea of the history of our current tax system and a better

understanding of what the FairTax is.

This book is great at addressing most of the criticisms though. It also gave me a renewed anger at the current mess of a tax system we're under now! Especially at this time of the year!!!

Quinton says

This book is a good, though slightly biased description of the FairTax. It is written by a politician, and a talk show host/lawyer, and so you could understand that they don't always go into detail, and they try to keep it pretty happy, so you don't think about the details. I can understand though.. if they went into the details of the tax code, how many people, other than myself obviously, would actually want to read it?

It's a good continuation of the previous book, on the FairTax, which is a 23% inclusive retail level sales tax, to completely replace all income taxes in the US. I think it's a fantastic idea, but I don't understand how it would work when it comes to some more complicated international transactions, etc. They didn't go into that... I wonder why...

Still worth a read if you're interested in economics, or if you just don't like doing tax returns, and want a way for the government to still raise funds, without any of us having to do any more tax returns. It's a good idea.

Jamie says

If you've read the first book by Neal Boortz et al, you will likely have at least 1 or 2 questions regarding the FairTax. This book will answers those questions, as well as some others you didn't even think to ask (but were glad they are answered here as well).

See my review of The Fair Tax Book Saying Goodbye to the Income Tax and the IRS, and you too will likely become a FairTax evangelist.

Rich says

While the conservative talk show host author/reader is a bit hard to take, I found his arguments for a consumption tax (in lie of income and employment taxes) very compelling.

The Fairtax approach may not be progressive enough for some, but I think the end result would be a substantially similar distribution of tax responsibility.

A few of the benefits of the system are: no lobbyists seeking special tax status, less conflicted legislators, more competitive pricing of exports, tax haven for off shore money, no IRS (as we currently know it), all visitors (illegal and otherwise) would be paying taxes when they made purchases, drug runners and other underground income earners would pay tax when they made purchases, etc, etc.

I think the book, a short read, is worthy of anyone's time. I think we will see the day (soon I hope) when the US faces the reality that its economic machine needs an overhaul and a good place to start might be our method of raising funds for government operations.

I have always been in favor of a tax system that creates incentives for savings and investment—this is very appealing to me. Don't judge this concept as whacky until you have studied it a bit further. I think you will also find that many aspects of the approach appeals to your own sense of fairness.

David Todd says

I haven't yet made up my mind as to whether I will support a national consumption tax as opposed to our present system of obtaining most Federal revenue from taxing income. This book, the second in the Fair Tax series, had certainly pushed me in that direction.

Boortz, Linder, and woodall do a fair job of defining and defending the Fair Tax. The purpose of this book, however, was not really to define the FT, but to refute the major criticisms of the FT that had been raised in the couple of years since it had been proposed. This they do, perhaps not always adequately, but they do it.

As far as the quality of the writing goes, this is an easy-going book. The words on the page are much like Boortz's style on his nationally syndicated radio talk show. They are NOT like Linder's speeches in Congress or to his constituents. At least, I hope he doesn't give political speeches that way. It's very casual writing. I like casual writing. That's the kind of writing I do in some of my books. I thought it was taken to extreme in this book, however, especially in some of the cutesy footnotes. Such things work well on a radio talk show, but do not show the seriousness our national financial system needs. They won't win any new supporters with comments like that.

As to defining the problem, that our system of taxing income in the way it is now is unfair, regressive, and has too narrow a tax base as compared to a consumption tax, they make a fair case. I imagine the case was made better in the first book. This book, after all, was to answer the critics. A certain amount of defining the FT was need so that the book could stand alone, an they did just that amount. As to answering the critics, they did, but not as well as could be. I'm still skeptical about a couple of things that weren't covered in this book. Possibly they are covered in the first one.

I will be looking to find the first FT book and read it. From reading this one, I have a better understanding of what the Fair Tax is, how it would work, and how it might be better than taxing income. While reading this second book before the first wasn't wrong, I suspect it would be better to read the first one first. If you can find the first one read it. If you happen to come across this one first, go ahead and read it. It might answer all your questions about the Fair Tax. I just need a little more.

Gary says

First I want to say that I support the FairTax concept and encourage all Americans to review this information as it can help piece are country together and restore the economic vitality. FairTax does not reduce or increase our taxes, just simplifies the collection process with a retail consumption tax and eliminating all income and payroll taxes. Yes you would get 100% of what you get paid. Read this stuff at FairTax.org. Second, the authors although bright are not talented writers and this is reason for a 3 star. Great topic and concept, no so stellar delivery.

VoteTassia says

This was a good read, describing what a terrible mess the current tax system is. The Fair Tax is basically, if they can pass it, an alternative to the income tax. Instead of paying an income tax, it proposes a national sales tax. Though my personal belief is that there isn't really a need for taxes at all, I do believe that such a system as the FairTax would be a good transition. Definitely better than the current system. So, even if you are, as I am, opposed to taxation, this book is still loaded with a lot of useful information.

Kevin says

a good read, good follow up book to the first Fairtax Book, this sounds like a tax system that would really benefit our country, just the funding of social security and medicade would be worth it, with a consumption tax more revenue would come in, and it would eliminate a huge wasteful beauracacy, called the IRS, taxation would be more evenly distributed and would be more transparent, you would have more money in your pocket, and the fairtax should help drive down prices, sounds good to me.

Randy says

This is a follow up book to "The Fair Tax" book that answers questions posed by opponents of the bill. Yes, it is a book about a tax bill, and yes it is captivating.

Please don't believe all the bs that people are spouting about the fair tax. I am an avid supporter of this grass roots movement to completely overhaul our tax code. It is an inclusive 23% consumption tax, only levied on new consumer goods that replaces the roughly 22% you already pay in embedded taxes. It would completely eliminate the 60,000 pages of tax code, the filing of taxes by individuals, payroll, corporate, death, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, social security, medicare, etc.. taxes that we currently pay. It is revenue neutral (the government would be taking in the same as they currently do). It would not change any current program that is funded by your tax dollars, just the way it is collected. It would completely untax everyone living at or below the poverty level by providing every worker with their entire paycheck (no withholdings), and a prebate check each month for every American to cover the taxes placed on basic necessities. Illegal aliens, criminals, and also foreign visitors will be paying into our taxes when they purchase any new consumer goods. All this along with the elimination of most of the special interest lobbyist in Washington, and America having the most transparent/cheapest corporate tax structure in the free world (in a survey 80% of major corporations that expatriated have said if the fair tax was implemented they would either build their next branch in America or move back their entire operation). You would be able to invest/save money with no taxation. The IRS could no longer investigate, jail, intrude on the lives of our citizens.

If you have any questions ask me, read the book, read wikipedia, hell, I will buy you a copy of it! Just don't go regurgitating crap that you hear about it without giving an honest chance to this nonpartisan bill explained in this easy read.

Sean says

I liked the FairTax more before reading this book. The tone was bad, bordering on patronizing. The repeated characterization of income tax supporters as marxist was particularly bad.

It was almost like Fox News in book form.

Maybe I just need to find a book on the FairTax that is more geared towards economics rather than punditry.

Bernie says

The Fair Tax is an idea both liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans can get behind.

It's ideas are simple but revolutionary.

What if we had a tax system that was not designed to punish?

What if our tax system was transparent enough so that we could actually discern where politicians are directing our money?

What if our tax system supported, rather than obscured government accountability, and systems of political patronage could be uprooted?

What if we could abolish the IRS and eliminate the billions of dollars that go to writing tax returns and finding tax shelters?

What if our tax system delivered new businesses to America instead of driving it away?

What if our domestic products could compete on equal terms with the imports instead of being inflated through layers of taxation?

What if we made investments based purely on how good an investment it was rather than its tax implications?

What if special interests got the shaft and the general welfare was bolstered?

And even for all of those who love big government, what if this new tax was revenue neutral, allowing all present government programs to exist without funding interruption?

If you had all that, you'd have the FairTax!
