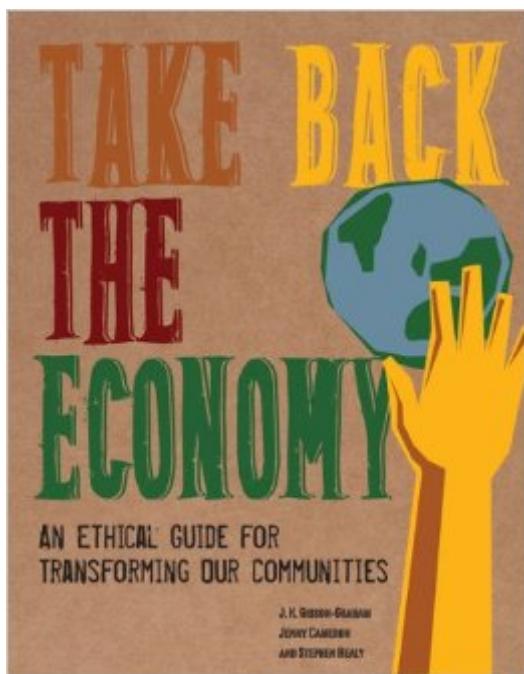


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# Take Back The Economy: An Ethical Guide For Transforming Our Communities



## Synopsis

In the wake of economic crisis on a global scale, more and more people are reconsidering their role in the economy and wondering what they can do to make it work better for humanity and the planet. In this innovative book, J. K. Gibson-Graham, Jenny Cameron, and Stephen Healy contribute complex understandings of economics in practical terms: what can we do right now, in our own communities, to make a difference? Full of exercises, thinking tools, and inspiring examples from around the world, *Take Back the Economy* shows how people can implement small-scale changes in their own lives to create ethical economies. There is no manifesto here, no one prescribed model; rather, readers are encouraged and taught how to take back the economy in ways appropriate for their own communities and context, using what they already have at hand. *Take Back the Economy* dismantles the idea that the economy is separate from us and best comprehended by experts. Instead, the authors demonstrate that the economy is the outcome of the decisions and efforts we make every day. The economy is thus reframed as a space of ethical action—“something we can shape and alter according to what is best for the well-being of people and the planet. The book explores what people are already doing to build ethical economies, presenting these deeds as mutual concerns: What is necessary for survival, and what do we do with the surplus produced beyond what will fulfill basic needs? What do we consume, and how do we preserve and replenish the commons—“those resources that can be shared to maintain all? And finally, how can we invest in a future worth living in? Suitable for activists and students alike, *Take Back the Economy* will be of interest to anyone seeking a more just, sustainable, and equitable world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As we watch the middle class dwindle, its income stagnant, feeling helpless to help themselves and helpless to help the poor, along comes a book that gives us practical advice supported by empirical evidence of what we can do to change the lives of our families, our communities, our Nation and the Universe. The authors aren't just brilliant academics, they have the practical experience. Anybody can say there has to be a change or blog about what is wrong. The book tells us what we can do because we are not powerless subjects of recalcitrant governments and bureaucracies. This is one of the few books that I have sent to family members simply because of its merits and not waited for a special occasion. I suggest you not borrow a copy, buy it, because you will be marking it up in the margins, underlining, and highlighting text as you learn what you can do to "Take Back The Economy".

An informative and engaging work that offers both critical insights into contemporary conditions and concrete examples of what can (and is) being done to take back the economy and create more sustainable (ecologically, emotionally, and economically sustainable) communities. This work helps readers imagine how to escape the debilitating condition of seeing "capitalism" as everywhere and furthermore. Perhaps most impressively, three academics have produced a book that is enjoyable to read with graphics and examples to illustrate their arguments. A wonderful book overall.

This engaging, accessible book reframes the economy as a site of ethical action, not expert intervention. Not only does it provide a new way of thinking about the economy and our actions within it as a space of possibility, it also offers myriad inspiring examples of individuals and communities creating change. An essential book for those interested in creating ethical and sustainable futures.

Book Review  
Gibson-Graham, J.K., Jenny Cameron and Stephen Healy. 2013. *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities*. University of Minnesota Press; Minneapolis, MN. ISBN -978-0-8166-7606-1  
I have been a community economic development professional and educator on this subject for more than 20 years. I am always on the lookout for books that make it simple for emerging practitioners and students to develop a quick sense of how

to frame and re-frame, act, reflect and improve upon their work in the field. This book is helpful in both the applied and the academic contexts. People new to community development, particularly those interested in alternative development paradigms will find much benefit here in the insightful and reflective review of considerations in community economies. The book covers the nature of work and things to think about in terms of how wages are set and options that support more fairness in the use of surplus created by production. It delves into the business models, alternative ways to think about markets, finance and property. All of it is offered in a format to support dialogue of ethical considerations in community economies. It offers what the title says: ethical guidance, and that is very useful for participatory community dialogue.

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