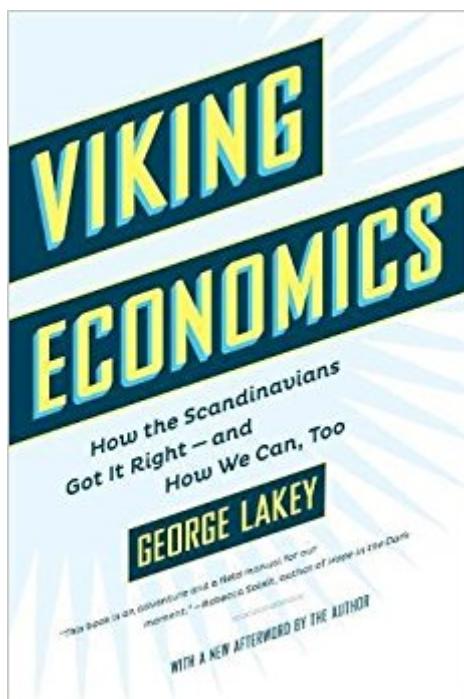


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# Viking Economics: How The Scandinavians Got It Right—and How We Can, Too



## Synopsis

Liberals worldwide invoke Scandinavia as a promised land of equality, while most conservatives fear it as a hotbed of liberty-threatening socialism. But the left and right can usually agree on one thing: that the Nordic system is impossible to replicate elsewhere. The US and UK are too big, or too individualistic, or too . . . something. In *Viking Economics* —now with a new afterword by the author—George Lakey dispels these myths. He explores the inner-workings of the Nordic economies that boast the world’s happiest, most productive workers, and explains how, if we can enact some of the changes the Scandinavians fought for surprisingly recently, we, too, can embrace equality in our economic policy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Here, Lakey combines historical analysis, economic data and interview-based opinion to produce something that delivers much more than each of those could do in isolation. As a result, *Viking Economics* tells a story of economic change and the foundations on which it was built at a time when it is so obvious that such narratives are desperately needed in modern political discourse.” —Richard Murphy, Times Higher Education magazine  
“*Viking Economics* shows us there’s no reason we couldn’t be making far more progress across a wide range of problems. George Lakey is great at explaining why.” —Bill McKibben, environmentalist and author, Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, founder of 350.org  
“Carrying student debt? Working longer hours with no vacation? Do you wonder if it is

possible for the U.S. to reverse a generation of extreme inequality? It doesn't have to be this way. Viking Economics helps us envision a different way of organizing our economy to put people and planet first. • Chuck Collins, Senior Scholar, Institute for Policy Studies, author of *Wealthy, Come Home* • "The Nordic model has proven extraordinarily successful in ensuring a decent standard of living for all the citizens of these countries, while at the same time keeping them open to international trade and at the forefront of technology. This short book is a great starting point for those looking for insights into the origins and structure of this model." • Dean Baker is Co-Director of Center for Economic and Policy Research and author of *Getting Back to Full Employment: A Better Bargain for Working People* • "Brilliant, fun to read, and most timely--just what Americans need right now! Lakey busts key myths that keep us believing we can't have the society we want. Bravo for this great source of evidence-grounded hope!" • Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet* and *Getting a Grip: Clarity, Creativity and Courage for the World We Want* From the Hardcover edition.

GEORGE LAKEY is Visiting Professor at Swarthmore College. He is the author of many books and articles and has written for *Waging Nonviolence* and *Common Dreams*, among other publications.

Let me say first that I am a professor of public policy, but I like to read "popular social science" that is well-grounded in real evidence and data, such as *Women Don't Ask*, *The Big Sort*, *Bowling Alone*, etc. I found *Viking Economics* very interesting and an easy read and I was glad I read it. It is thought-provoking and leads to mulling about the US economic structure. But, the chapter I was looking forward to the most--the one on whether we could do this in the US and, if so, how--was the weakest, and that disappointed me. I do recommend this book, and in fact have passed it along to my dad so that we can talk about it. But it's weaker than I wish--but I'm also not the standard audience, I'm sure. Read it, enjoy it, think about it--but don't expect too much.

Very important book. It outlines the story of Scandinavia's extraordinary system of economic and social justice for all and the social and personal happiness as well as economic success that ensued, The author's experiences in Norway and Iceland including interviews and stories are the main source of data.. The book considers what the Scandinavians did to ensure social and economic justice for all. It asks us to consider how our country can do it too.

Interesting book with a case for scandanavian economics

I enjoyed it very much. I was in Norway at the same time as the author and was unaware of the economic conditions. I feel much more informed. I would like to hear more critique by economists of the author's positions.

Wish everyone could read this myth busting book. We can have a better country and life!

Excellent roadmap for progressive economics and thoughtful evidence and documentation.

Like the contrast between economies showing the potential for what the US could do . . .

Should be a must read. We can learn a lot from this very readable book.

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