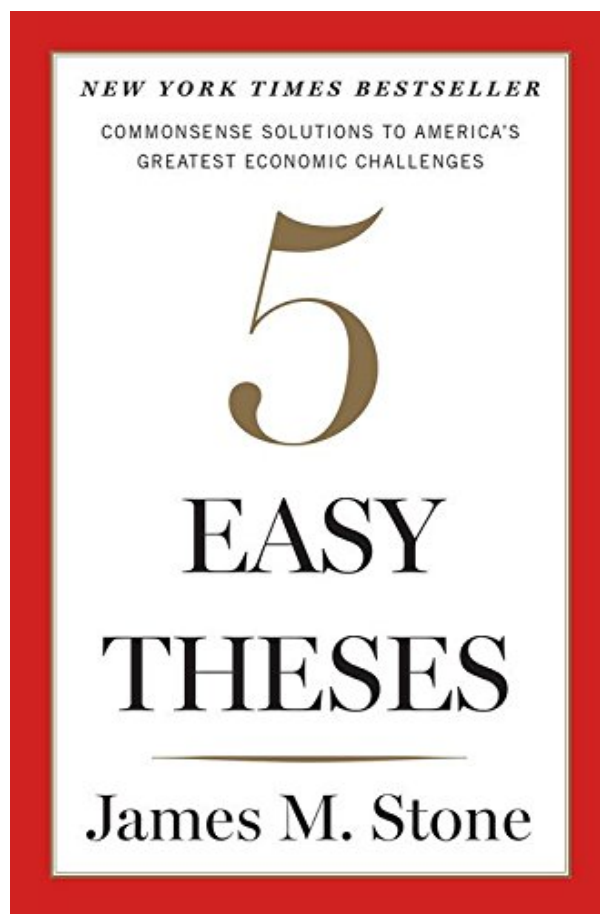


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SOLUTIONS TO AMERICA'S GREATEST
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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS TO AMERICA'S
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5

EASY
THESES

James M. Stone

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A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

A business leader and esteemed economic thinker outlines simple solutions to America's five most pressing public policy issues, from healthcare to education to inequality.

America today confronts a host of urgent problems, many of them seemingly intractable, but some we are entirely capable of solving. In *Five Easy Theses*, James M. Stone presents specific, common-sense solutions to a handful of our most pressing challenges, showing how simple it would be to shore up Social Security, rein in an out-of-control financial sector, reduce inequality, and make healthcare and education better and more affordable. The means are right in front of us, Stone explains, in various policy options that — if implemented — could preserve or enhance government revenue while also channeling the national economy toward the greater good. Accessible and thought provoking, *Five Easy Theses* reveals that a more democratic, prosperous America is well within our reach.

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Admirable for its civility, intelligence and vision

By Malvin

“5 Easy Theses” by James M. Stone is admirable for its civility, intelligence and vision. Mr. Stone is a highly accomplished individual whose wisdom was gained from many years of success in public service, business and philanthropy. Sketching out a centrist position to many of today’s contentious issues, this earnest book should interest people who desire a better America.

The theses discussed by Mr. Stone include fiscal balance, income inequality, education, health care and financial sector reform. Mr. Stone humanizes these policy discussions by including personal anecdotes and stories. For example, when talking about financial speculation, the author recalls a disastrous decision made by his grandfather just prior to the Crash of 1929 in order to remind us how policy choices can severely impact people’s lives.

Perhaps the greatest attribute of Mr. Stone’s book is its potential to open the middle ground. When one reads Mr. Stone’s thoroughly reasonable positions, it becomes evident that far more consensus exists in American life and culture than contention. Commonsense ideas such as balancing the federal budget by ending the corporate tax deduction on interest and nudging the retirement age up a few years seem entirely feasible. In fact, those on the edges who agitate for greater tax cuts or benefits are put on their heels to explain how the math for their proposals might work.

I highly recommend “5 Easy Theses” to everyone.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Lower Your Blood Pressure About The Election -- Read a Wonky Book Instead

By Shamm Gold

Are you a wonk? Despairing of politics?

The political yelling will continue. As far as the eye can see. Alas.

However, occasionally in the coming years there will be moments of potential compromise. Windows of Opportunity. Let's be ready. Ready with some "moderate" ideas that help real people, and can thread the needle between both parties.

This book has ideas like that.

For example, banks too big to fail? You can wish for a Congress to jam through laws requiring it. Not going to happen. Jim's clever idea is to incentivize mega banks to break up. Plausible!

If you're a policy nerd, what's your next best alternative to reading this book? Another 4 hours of reading your Facebook feed?

Besides banks, "Five" tackles social security, inequality, health care, education.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Reasonable arguments on the major issues facing us.

By Jerry Saperstein

Dr. James M. stone is an educated man, a successful man. To his credit, he identifies himself as a member of the Democrat Party, but says he has done his best to adopt an ideology neutral position in making his arguments here.

For him, there are five core issues that cloud the nation's future:

Fiscal Balance

Inequality

Education

Health Care

Financial Sector reform

He then proceeds to identify and describe the issues, a task he performs well. But considering how long these issues have been around and how often they have been described by various people, that isn't the most difficult task.

As anticipated and promised in his title, he proceeds to outline his solutions to each of these problems.

Unfortunately there is nothing here that astute students of our culture and society haven't heard before. Nor are there any proposed solutions that haven't been tried, albeit partially, in the past without success.

In particular I found that his chapters on Inequality, Education and Health Care failed to address reality in favor of a very biased doctrinaire political interpretation.

Even though I disagree with Dr. James' proposed solutions, I respect the man for the clarity of his presentation. This is a man with you could have a productive discussion, even though you disagree with him.

A book well worth an audience of all political persuasions.

Jerry

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