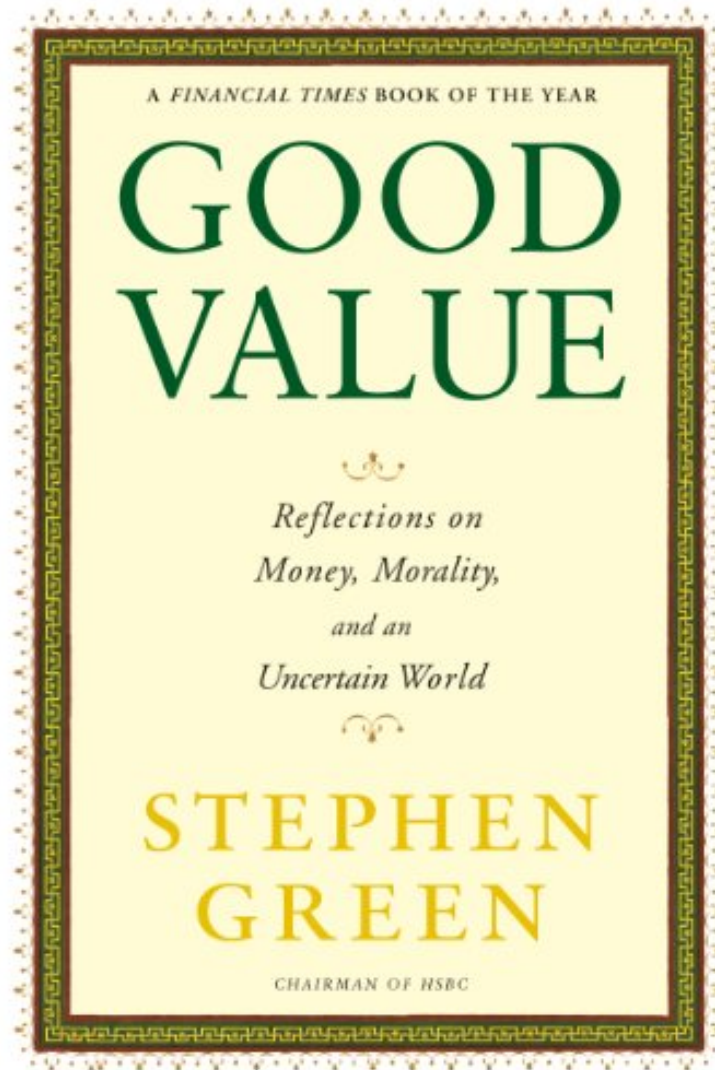


# Good Value: Reflections on Money, Morality and an Uncertain World

*Stephen Green*

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**Stephen Green : Good Value: Reflections on Money, Morality and an Uncertain World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Good Value: Reflections on Money, Morality and an Uncertain World:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Religion and Capitalism By Ira E. Stoll For readers interested in how religion informs views of capitalism, this is an excellent example. No matter what you think of Green's argument, it's a beautifully written and lucid book that ranges widely in history and literature. It's a book not just about financial policy but about living a meaningful, examined life. As a writer, Green has an eye for the telling factual detail. To cite

just one example, on globalization: "I have listened to the work of an Italian composer (Puccini) in a Chinese opera house (in Beijing) designed by a Frenchman (Paul Andreu)." At its core, though, this is a book about what Green sees as the limits of capitalism and how he hopes to transform it. Early on, Green quotes Milton Friedman's view that "There is one and only one social responsibility of business - to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits so long as it stays within the rules of the game, which is to say, engages in open and free competition without deception or fraud." Green calls that view "dangerously simplistic," and says businesses now "must consider value from the perspective not just of investors, but of customers, employees, suppliers, communities and - increasingly - the environment, too." Green's own feelings about free-market capitalism are mixed: "At its best, as we have seen, there is no more powerful engine for development and liberation than the market. At its worst, it is a dangerous moral pollutant that nourishes some very poisonous weeds in us." At times, Green is downright hostile. He quotes Paul: "The love of money is the root of all evil." Money, he writes, has become "the modern Mephistopheles," the servant of Lucifer, the Devil. What is the alternative? "After 2007-2009, the manifest failure of market fundamentalism and the need for a rebalancing of the world's economy will inevitably be the starting point of a new world order," Green writes. "The underlying question will be whether world leaders can construct a shared vision of a global economic order that preserves the dynamism of market forces while taming their excesses (in both risk-taking and reward)." Green expresses hope that what he calls "ethical capitalism" will supplant what he calls "the ideology of market fundamentalism." This "ethical capitalism" has an ideology of its own, which, while its truth may be self-evident to Green, is by no means universally shared. "My interpretive prism is Christian," Green writes toward the end of the book, again quoting Paul: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." "The ideal, and the hope, stand the test of time," writes Green. This may well grate on Jewish readers who don't look forward as ardently as Green apparently does to the elimination of their unique identity. They and others may, as I did, find this particular critic of "market fundamentalism" to display a certain fundamentalism of his own, and one that isn't without its own dangers.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Sense  
By Rubynelle Thyne  
I tend to ignore most writings about economics but reference to my favorite poet drew me to a 2010 review in Newsweek of Stephen Green's *Good Value: Reflections on Money, Morality and an Uncertain World*. The beautifully written article not only lifted my spirits but made a lot of sense, and I jotted notes to consider later. Recently I wanted to borrow some of the ideas analogical to points in my in-process memoir, but I needed to verify my source. Attempting to access on line the meaningful article, I found instead the more impressive book immediately available on Amazon's Kindle. I have devoured then e-chewed the entire practical, philosophical work evidencing the author's deep understanding of human relations, sound business practice and deep meaning embedded in T.S. Eliot's poetry. Baron Green's theological training plus business and political experience equipped him to write his guidelines for ethical business and politics. It's a shame that more recent banking deals have stained his reputation, but "feet of clay" do not detract from the vital message of this small book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Value  
By CKramer  
Although I have not yet received the shipment, I have read the book and further purchases are for friends. This is one of the most enlightening books of the year. The author, Stephen Green, is extremely well read and knowledgeable concerning markets and the ongoing globalization of our world. He mixes history, current market dynamics and a heavy dose of ethics in this really well written book. Every professional in the field of marketing, financing and world history needs to read and study this book.

Can one be both an ethical person and an effective businessperson? Stephen Green, an ordained priest and the chairman of HSBC, thinks so. In *Good Value*, Green retraces the history of the global economy and its financial systems, and shows that while the marketplace has delivered huge advantages to humanity, it has also abandoned over a billion people to extreme poverty, encouraged overconsumption and debt, and ravaged the environment. How do we reconcile the demands of capitalism with both the common good and our own spiritual and psychological needs as individuals? To answer that, and some of the most vexing questions of our age, Green takes us on a lively and erudite journey through history, looking for lessons in the work of economists and philosophers, businessmen and poets, theologians and novelists, playwrights and political scientists. An essential business book by a man who is uniquely qualified to write it, *Good Value* is a timely and persuasive analysis of the most pressing financial and moral questions we face.