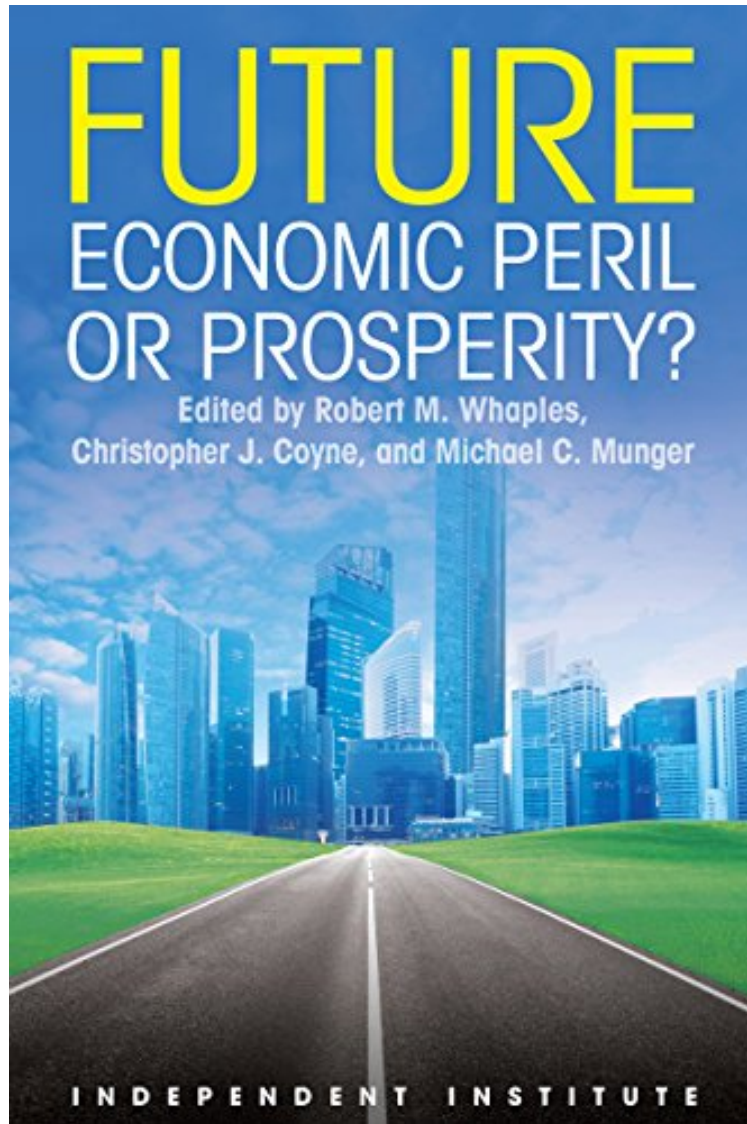


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## Future: Economic Peril or Prosperity? (Independent Institute Studies in Political Economy)

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**From Independent Institute : Future: Economic Peril or Prosperity? (Independent Institute Studies in Political Economy)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Future: Economic Peril or Prosperity? (Independent Institute Studies in Political Economy):

What will the economy look like in fifty years? How will our lives as consumers and workers be transformed by the

coming innovations in technology, the marketplace, and the workplace? How will changes in demographics and dependency affect our political system? Will economic freedom rise or fall? What, if anything, would greater prosperity do for one's total well-being? Future: Economic Peril or Prosperity? poses these and related questions to a diverse group of economists whose predictions will inspire thoughtful consideration and debate. As co-editor Robert M. Whaples writes in the introductory chapter, "The predicted changes range from innocent innovations that will make life a bit more comfortable...to potentially chilling technologies that might strip our human dignity." Just as important as the book's predictions are its insights into how we should think about an uncertain future. As humorist and social critic P. J. O'Rourke shows in his erudite chapter on self-fulfilling prophecies, wildly wrong predictions are not limited to the likes of a Nostradamous or a Karl Marx: even a Nobel laureate economist running a billion-dollar hedge fund can lose the farm (and other people's money) through an overly confident misreading of the economic tea leaves. And yet, perhaps only by delving more deeply into long-term forecasting, and reflecting on past mistakes, can we minimize the hubris that so often clouds the judgments of prognosticators in academia, business, and perhaps especially government. Informative, contentious, and at times inspirational, Future: Economic Peril or Prosperity? is an invaluable aid for anyone who understands the need to prepare for the future, even if that future cannot be fully anticipated.

About the Author Christopher J. Coyne is the F.A. Harper Professor of Economics at George Mason University and Co-Editor of The Independent . Michael C. Munger is Co-Editor of The Independent and Professor of Political Science, Economics and Public Policy, and Director of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program at Duke University. Robert M. Whaples is Co-Editor and Managing Editor for The Independent and Professor of Economics at Wake Forest University.