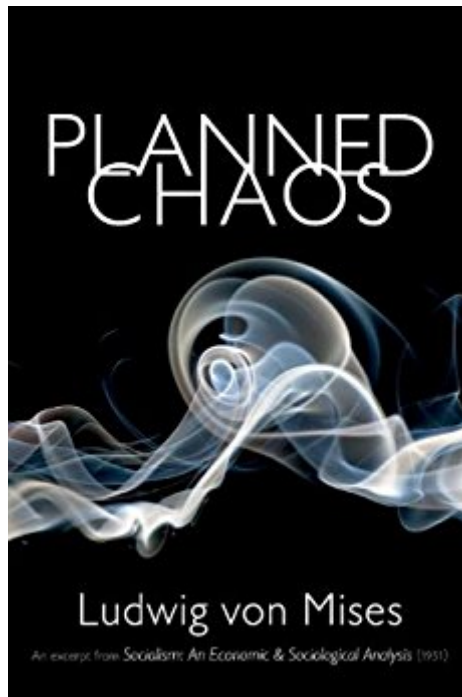


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Planned Chaos (LvMI)



Synopsis

The title comes from Mises's description of the reality of central planning and socialism, whether of the national variety (Nazism) or the international variety (communism). Rather than creating an orderly society, attempts at central planning have precisely the opposite effect. By short-circuiting the price mechanism and forcing people into economic lives contrary to their own choosing, central planning destroys the capital base and creates economic randomness that eventually ends by killing prosperity. This important work was written decades after Mises's original essay on economic calculation and includes the broadest and boldest attack on all forms of state control. To search for Mises Institute titles, enter a keyword and LvMI (short for Ludwig von Mises Institute); e.g., Depression LvMI

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Planned Chaos was added on to Mises' masterpiece Socialism, an Economic and Sociological Analysis. Planned Chaos works well as an epilogue to Socialism. On its own it has serious limitations. To those who lack familiarity with Austrian Economics, Mises' claims might seem weakly

argued. Mises explains his theoretical arguments in great detail in *Socialism, an Economic and Sociological Analysis*. Here the reader is left to infer much of what Mises is arguing. Only those who have read either *Human Action*, *Socialism*, or at least *Bureaucracy* will really get what is going on in this book. As such, this book has limited value. If you want to get the general idea about Mises read *Liberalism, the Classical Tradition*. That book is the best intro to Mises. This book simply lacks the material needed to stand on its own. Read it as the epilogue to *Socialism, an Economic and Sociological Analysis*.

I cannot say much more in favor of this book than has been said in previous reviews. I will say that, despite my minor disagreements with Mises (which are indeed minor and do not in any way detract from Mises' brilliance in defending the efficiency and benevolence of Capitalism and revealing the inefficiency and tyranny of Socialism), I give any of his works my full recommendation. Mises' works are mandatory for any serious student of economics. I would like to clear up the outright falsehood perpetrated by the previous reviewer (there are many, but this one is the most pernicious and positively heinous one committed). Slavery is NOT compatible with capitalism. The American south circa the American Civil War was NOT a capitalist region. Capitalism is the system which recognizes that each individual is sacrosanct and has inviolable rights. It is the complete separation of State and economy. Funny that an individual who recommends the work of Guevara, Hegel and Marx would gripe about slavery. Anyway, it's a short book. Read Mises' work before taking your cues from reactionaries suffering from apoplexy.

Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) was the outstanding economist of the twentieth century. He wrote three of the most important works of social theory in recent memory: *The Theory of Money and Credit*; *Socialism*; and *Human Action*. In these works, he brilliantly set forth an "Austrian" analysis of free enterprise and opposing systems. In addition to the above-referenced works, von Mises wrote a number of shorter works pitched to a more general audience. *PLANNED CHAOS*, which came out in 1947, is one of these. At that time - and even now - people consider "planning" to be scientific and modern. However, as von Mises shows, planning of the economy only leads to chaos, poverty, and violence. This is seen through a discussion of Marxism, Nazism, Fascism, and New Dealism. One of the best parts of this book is a discussion of the so-called "mixed economy." As von Mises shows, an economy with a large amount of government control and intervention is not really mixed. The government control exists in a sea of freedom. This might seem like a quibble, but as von Mises demonstrated, a truly socialist economy is impossible because there would be no way to

calculate prices. However, government intervention in the economy causes all sorts of problems which inevitably lead to chaos. So, ultimately the choice is between laissez faire and statism. In addition to this, there is a good discussion of the economic nature of Nazism and its similarities to Communism. We often hear that the big difference between Nazism and Communism is that Hitler and his cronies believed in Capitalism. Of course, this is silly. Hitler believed in a government controlled economy, even if he left the price system intact. Von Mises defense of Capitalism was based on utilitarian grounds. For different approaches, see the works of Murray Rothbard and Ayn Rand.

PLANNED CHAOS is an absolute must read for anyone interested in the survival of a free humanity, unfettered by world despotism. Its background on world history during the age of collectivism reveals the true ramifications of the facts which we already know. All this in 90 easy to read pages. I'm buying ten copies for distribution to my family and friends.

For me, ex socialist country inhabitant, ex-GOSPLAN worker with 10 years experience, this book is eye opening. It helps more clearly understand our old soviet economy and socialist society problems. For everybody which are trying to explain that there was "god" Marks theories and bad his theory executives Lenin, Trotskyi, Stalin or Mao Tze Dong I would recomend at first to read L. von Mises books, especially "Socializm". and its part "Planned Chaos"

I find this to be one of the greatest and most enlightening books I have ever read on the subject of Socialism versus Capitalism. Von Mises is a genius with few peers. His analysis of the dangers and threat of Socialist ideology and it's grip and subjugation of people is astounding, both in its simplicity and ability to convince even the most hard core totalitarian of the dangers of government overreach and mass oppression. Every lover of freedom and constitutional democracy should read this timeless piece of literary excellence. They will never regret it!

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