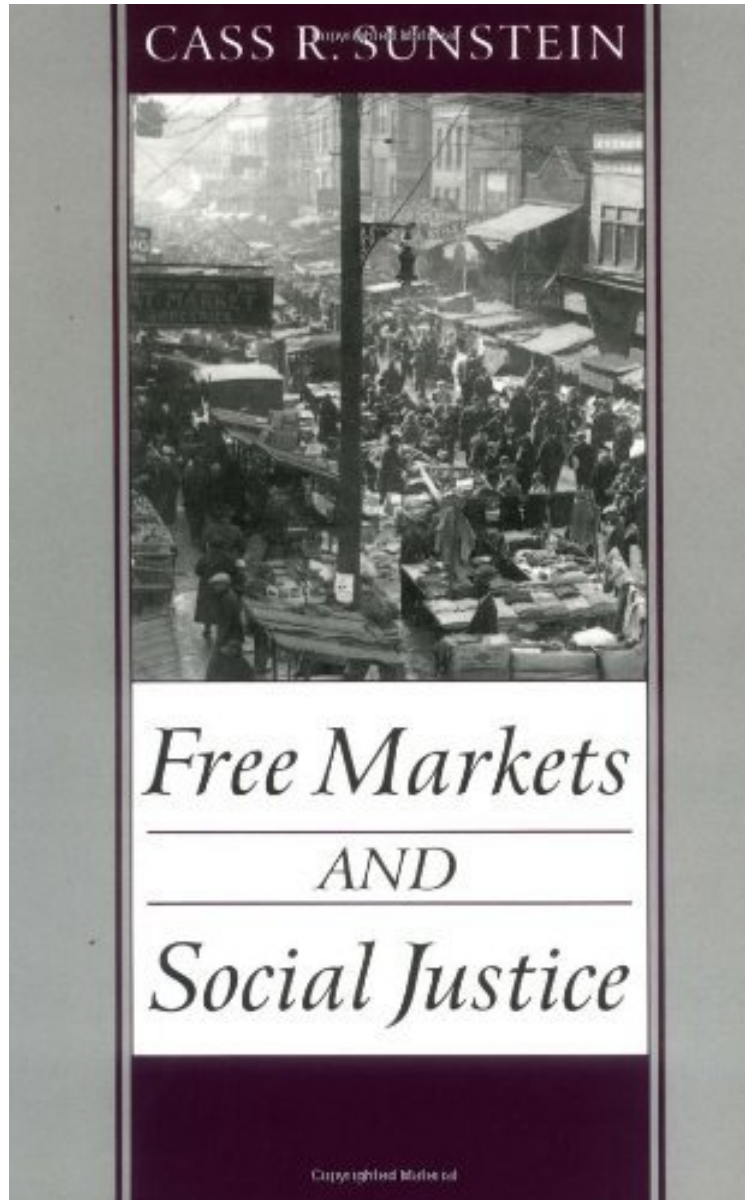


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## Free Markets and Social Justice

Von Cass R. Sunstein

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**Von Cass R. Sunstein : Free Markets and Social Justice** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Free Markets and Social Justice:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Balanced analysis of marketsVon Ein KundeThe author provides a balance between recognizing the value that is

embodied in free markets and realizing that they are not an end in themselves. Rather, the author writes that markets are best evaluated on the basis not of some imagined inherent worth, but on the basis of their practical effects in real life. By taking the focus away from the theoretical premises of free markets and allowing criticism based on their practical effects on human life, while still recognizing the amazing good they are, the author strikes a balance between those who would turn to some form of a socialistic economic system in order to achieve greater social justice and those who believe that markets can do no wrong. The author is talented at creating new perspectives from which to view issues related to markets and social justice. In addition, he does an excellent job at making a case for legitimate (yet still limited) government involvement in markets by using arguments that most conservatives would agree with. From a theological perspective, however, the author tends at times to point to markets as the source of some social ills that actually have their source not in market mechanisms, but in the presence of sin and evil in the world. Overall, the book is an excellent and balanced analysis of free markets and their effects on social justice. It is not easy bedtime reading, however. Be prepared to take quite a bit of time chewing on the author's ideas.

**Kurzbeschreibung**The newest work from one of the most preeminent voices writing in the legal/political arena today, this important book presents a new conception of the relationship between free markets and social justice. The work begins with foundations--the appropriate role of existing "preferences," the importance of social norms, the question whether human goods are commensurable, and issues of distributional equity. Continuing with rights, the work shows that markets have only a partial but instrumental role in the protection of rights. The book concludes with a discussion on regulation, developing approaches that would promote both economic and democratic goals, especially in the context of risks to life and health.

**Free Markets and Social Justice** develops seven basic themes during its discussion: the myth of laissez-faire; preference formation and social norms; the contextual character of choice; the importance of fair distribution; the diversity of human goods; how law can shape preferences; and the puzzles of human rationality. As the latest word from an internationally-renowned writer, this work will raise a number of important questions about economic analysis of law in its conventional form.

deWhile not meant to be an overarching "theory of justice" Cass Sunstein's book supplies many of the theoretical components any grand theory ought to include. In the broadest terms, this collection of articles argues that achieving social justice should be of greater importance than the purity of free markets. Markets, he argues, are themselves only possible through political guarantees of rights and the rule of law, and they should be subordinate to discussions of justice. Sunstein considers seven principles that clarify what is at stake in contemporary discussions of law and economics, often exposing unfounded assumptions of libertarians and free market devotees, yet never losing sight of the value of markets and the goods they procure. Insightful chapters on the formation of preferences, the diversity of human goods, the context dependence of choice, and the vexing problems of rationality blend the author's broad knowledge of contemporary philosophy, his command of legal history and philosophy, and a solid grasp of economic theory. Those looking for sound and challenging thinking on these topics have an excellent source in this volume.

**Pressestimmen**"This is an excellent book. Sunstein is one of the leading legal scholars of his generation and this is an extremely timely subject, particularly in this era of regulatory embattlement."--Carol Rose, Yale Law School "This is a thought-provoking and important contribution to current public policy debate. Highly recommended for libraries at all levels."--Choice "Sunstein's stature among legal scholars is tremendous; his previous books have reflected an admixture of pathbreaking, provocative scholarship on many key law and policy debates today. Free Markets and Social Justice represents a valuable and important contribution to Sunstein's impressive oeuvre."--Daniel B. Rodriguez, University of California School of Law, Berkeley "Sunstein captures again and again in this provocative and insightful book the ways in which context and the nature of our humanity shape preferences, and so need to be accounted for (as markets cannot do) in a political system that seeks to be just. Fortunately for us, his luminescent career has developed at the University of Chicago, in the midst of colleagues whom, as he puts it, could TRY to teach him something about economics, but more importantly provoke and help him to hone the skeptical responses that have so consistently animated his influential scholarship. This collection of essays, revised and shaped to persuasive unity, will be enormously helpful to all who wish to explore the uses and abuses of market reasoning in the political and legal sphere."--Peter L. Strauss, Columbia University "Sunstein is a man of many ideas, and this book is a splendid introduction to them."--Bruce Ackerman, Yale Law School "This is an excellent book. Sunstein is one of the leading legal scholars of his generation and this is an extremely timely subject, particularly in this era of regulatory embattlement."--Carol Rose, Yale Law School "This is a thought-provoking and important contribution to current public policy debate. Highly recommended for libraries at all levels."--Choice "Sunstein's stature among legal scholars is tremendous; his previous books have reflected an admixture of pathbreaking, provocative scholarship on many key law and policy debates today. Free Markets and Social Justice represents a valuable and important contribution to Sunstein's impressive oeuvre."--Daniel B. Rodriguez, University of California School of Law, Berkeley "Sunstein captures again and again in this provocative and insightful book the ways in which context and the nature of our humanity shape preferences, and so need to be

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