



*The Cartoon Introduction to Economics Volume Two:  
Macroeconomics* by Grady Klein and Yoram Bauman, Ph.D.

Reviewed by Dhruv



Vol 2 of *The Cartoon Introduction to Economics*

Non Fiction Graphic Novel

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

When one thinks of studying economics, the same images come to the mind. The supply-demand curves, the scary mathematics, and scary words that make no sense to the average person. But it does not have to be this way. The average person can learn the basics of economics while having plenty of fun and even getting a couple of laughs out of it. This book introduces the basic concepts of macroeconomics in a way that is genuinely fun. It covers topics such as money, unemployment, GDP, foreign aid, foreign currencies, and even the effects of climate change. It gives you an introduction to each of these topics and defines important terminology that form the basis of macroeconomics. It is an informational nonfiction text, but it is very different from a standard textbook. Everything is written like a comic book. For example, it illustrates the different ways of calculating GDP by showing cartoon characters playing a game of darts. The illustrations are genuinely funny while still being connected to the content material. It feels like one is reading a comic book, but in reality they are actually learning the basics of economics. It is a very cool and unique concept.

### **What drew you to this book?**

Economics, and specifically macroeconomics, was a subject that I had always been interested in. Specifically, it is something that is always in the news and a big part of political debate. But it always seemed like nobody really knew what they were talking about. People would throw buzzwords like GDP and inflation but nobody seemed to be explaining what these words were. Thus, when I saw this book, I really liked the concept it was trying to achieve.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

Yes, this book reminded me of the YouTube channel Oversimplified. This is a history channel that makes videos about different events in history. It heavily uses simple stick figure cartoon-like animation and the videos are hilarious. As the title suggests, its aim

is to make complicated topics a little more accessible to the general public just trying to learn something new. It utilizes the same hilarious, comic book style animations to explain complicated topics. The only difference is that this is a book and it is about economics rather than history.

### **To whom would you recommend this book?**

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a basic introduction to economics. If you want to be a more informed citizen who can understand all of these buzzwords being thrown around, then you should definitely read this book. It isn't a very long read as it only takes about 2 hours. But in those 2 hours, it touches upon all of the basic concepts of macroeconomics and gives a base to work off of. The cool part is that it requires a lot less effort to learn all of this compared to learning using a traditional textbook.

### **Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

Overall, I did like this book as it did fulfill what it promised to do. It gave a solid introduction to macroeconomics in a way that was fun. I would totally recommend this to other people who are curious like me. In today's world, it is really important to understand these concepts. This subject isn't something that is generally taught at school which makes it even more important to learn. My only criticism is with the concept itself. As the book is supposed to be simple, one does lose all of the intricate nuances of the subject and ends up with a somewhat shallow knowledge. It is important to recognize this. If someone wants a more detailed take, they should not read this book.

### **Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

I bought this book at the MIT Bookstore in Cambridge. You should definitely check that place out. It doesn't have books in the traditional sense. The books there are different and innovative. Though it was overpriced, the concept and cover looked really cool and almost irresistible. It was totally worth it. The book really reflected the innovative spirit of MIT and the books surrounding it.