

Hans-Hermann Hoppe

*Democracy: The God That Failed* by Hans-Hermann Hoppe

Reviewed by Mohamed



Non Fiction

The Economics and Politics of  
Monarchy, Democracy, and Natural Order

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

In this book, Hans-Hermann Hoppe, an German-American economist of the Austrian School, has concluded that despite what mainstream media and politics claim, Democracy is the worst form of government even when compared to all the others tried due to it being associated with high time preference (short-sightedness), resulting in issues ranging from high national debts and bankrupt welfare programs to civilizational/societal degradation. He sees that systems such as hereditary monarchy (private government) is preferable as it promotes low time preferences (far-sightedness) and thus, levels of national debt, government spending, and social degradation (if any) is very low. However, he views any and all statist forms of governments are faulty and that the best form of governance is anarcho-capitalism, also referred to as "private law society," "private property anarchy," and, more preferably, "the Natural Order."

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

I have an interest in economics and politics. I saw a video about what Democracy is based on the books "The Machiavellians: Defenders of Freedom" (by James Burnham) and the book I am reviewing right now—"Democracy: The God That Failed" (by Hans-Hermann Hoppe).

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

Yes. It reminded me of Socrates' critique of democracy, but his argument against democracy, while concerned with far-sightedness, isn't rooted in economic problems but rather in the idea that only those who are well-informed about politics and politicians should vote. It is worth noting, though, that Hoppe doesn't believe in absolute universal suffrage and instead in a natural elite, for if the right to vote was expanded to children, "its policies would most definitely reflect the 'legitimate concerns' of children to have 'adequate' and 'equal' access to 'free' french fries, lemonade and videos."

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

Anyone who is interested in political philosophy and likes to question the current system of government.

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

Yes. I found this book to be very interesting, and I was convinced by Hoppe's arguments. I'd recommend it to those who are interested in politics and government and if they aren't satisfied with the current state of American politics.

**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?**

NOTE: This book was from the Brockton Public Library, but the Mansfield Public Library can order this book if requested.