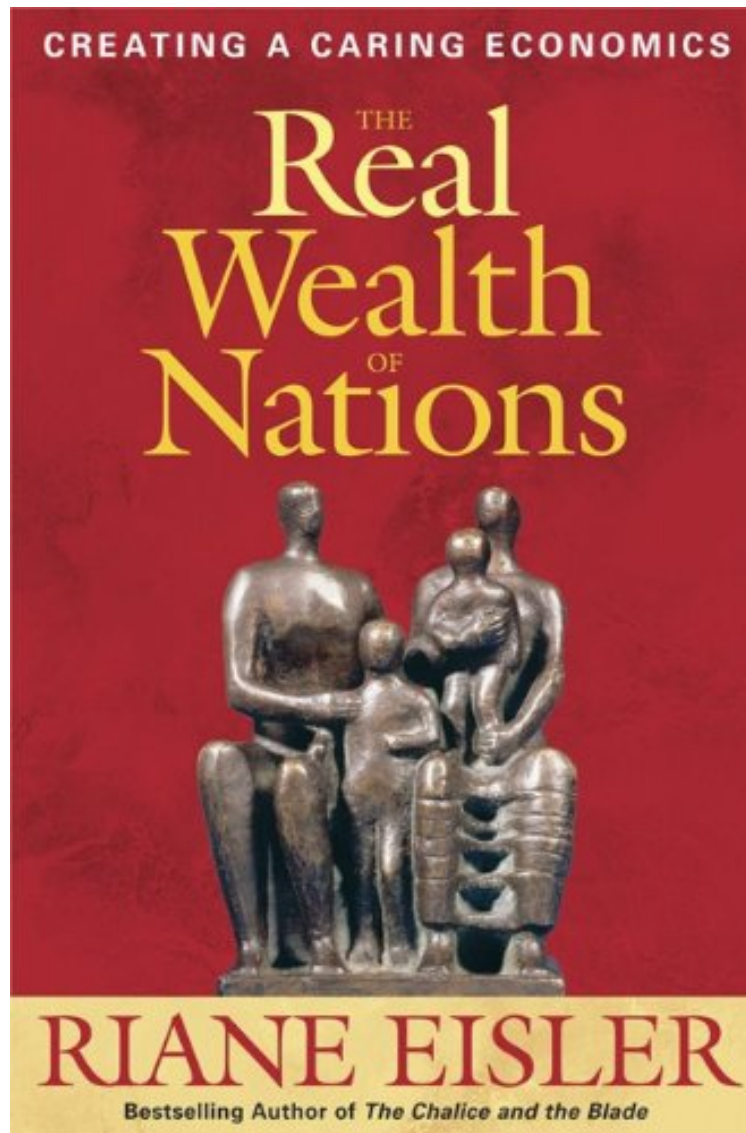


(Free pdf) The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics

## The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics

Riane Eisler

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**Riane Eisler : The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Outlines a value set for a "New Economics" which can serve us all fairlyBy R. RileyFrom the perspective of someone who's read many books on the nature of our economic system in the USA (and global capitalism), I must say that this author does a marvelous job of holding up a much different and more holistic set of values than those which presently undergird our economic-political system and are wreaking social and ecological havoc - power and domination. The values she espouses as a necessary foundation if we are to survive well into the future are mutual caring and cooperation. If you think about it, those are the very values which come from the

foundations of all the (credible) world religions. And by extension, those values are the ones which are truest to our common Divine true inner nature and therefore are the very best for our lives on the planet with and for each other and the "natural order." I am simply in awe of her insightfulness and brilliance, not to mention caring. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Caring Wealth Optimizes Cooperative Economics By Gerald Dillenbeck Brilliant. This would make an interesting conversation partner with Laura Brown's feminist therapy for a therapeutic economy and a cooperative economic sociotherapy. The only reason I chose 4 stars, rather than 5, is because I was surprised that all the economic performance research on cooperative economics was not highlighted as a dipolar point of contrast with Eisler's well-articulated critique of dominant-competitive Business As Usual economics. A strategic and logistic comparison of Win-Lose assumptions in competitive value-choice environments, with Win-Win cooperative economic and ecological logistical assumptions and values would only further articulate a brilliant position advocating thrival of the interdependently fittest investors over the painfully obvious limitations of fully understanding economic ecology as survival of the fittest depositors. Eisler's evolutionary view of economic theoretical development is also spot-on, resulting in her highly intelligent choice of title for this essential reading for anyone wanting to invest more effectively in the economic and ecological dynamics of their own lives. We are all economists, choosing to invest in real nutritious wealth or in that other toxic short-term sugar rush of beating down the Joneses. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An important book By J. Resnick The premise of the book is that the activities of caring for others - and particularly for children - are not economically rewarded to an extent that is commensurate with the economic value they create for societies, and that this misalignment of economic incentives is at the root of all kinds of social problems. I did not find the book to be quite as well written as I'd hoped (hence 4 stars instead of 5). Some of its core assertions - i.e. that the fundamental reason why the work of caring isn't valued is \*because\* it has historically been assigned to women - are repeated endlessly and treated axiomatically, without any in-depth exploration. The book also relies a bit too heavily for my tastes on citing statistics as a method of argument. That said, I think Eisler's central observation - that many of our biggest problems cannot be solved without a paradigm shift in our economic models toward valuing that which really matters - is spot on, and hence this is an important book for anyone interested in social change.

Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* provided the first, most influential and lasting explanation of the workings of modern economics. But with his focus on "the market" as the best mechanism for producing and distributing the necessities of life, Smith's concepts only told part of the story, leading to flawed economic models that devalue activities that fall outside of the market's parameters of buying and selling. The real wealth of nations, Riane Eisler argues, is not merely financial, but includes the contributions of people and our natural environment. Here, Eisler goes beyond the market to reexamine economics from a larger perspective--and shows that we must give visibility and value to the socially and economically essential work of caring for people and the planet if we are to meet the enormous challenges we are facing. Eisler proposes a new "caring economics" that takes into account the full spectrum of economic activities--from the life--sustaining activities of the household, to the life-enriching activities of caregivers and communities, to the life-supporting processes of nature. She shows how our values are distorted by the economic double standard that devalues anything stereotypically associated with women and femininity; reveals how current economic models are based on a deep-seated culture of domination; and shows how human needs would be better served by economic models based on caring. Most importantly, she provides practical proposals for new economic inventions--new measures, policies, rules, and practices--to bring about a caring economics that fulfills human needs. Like her classic *The Chalice and the Blade*, *The Real Wealth of Nations* is a bold and insightful look at how to create a society in which each of us can achieve the full measure of our humanity.

From Publishers Weekly Accomplished feminist social theorist and activist Eisler follows up her 1987 international bestseller *The Chalice and the Blade* with an inquiry into the nature and causes of "the real wealth of nations" in a contrarian work of grand economic theory. She begins with her original thesis: that we inherit and inhabit a personal and social world that masculinity has built by consistently devaluing and subordinating the feminine. Pointing out the socially and ecologically destructive flaws inherent in both capitalist and socialist economies, she then asserts that our emerging global society needs a new story of what human nature and economics are and can be. For Eisler, economies are social inventions imbedded in larger social systems. She offers a clearly written and compelling account of how the masculine "dominator" mentality brought us to our present juncture, and how a feminine "partnership" mentality can help us redefine key concepts such as "value" and "needs." Citing the most recent economic data and offering numerous relevant examples of places where efforts to practice a caring economics have succeeded both in preindustrial and modern societies, such as the Nordic nations, the book is ambitious in breadth, depth and scope. Eisler delivers another impressive work that's remarkably well referenced, well argued, insightful and hopeful. (Apr.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Forward-thinking social scientist Eisler, author of *The Chalice and the Blade* (1987) and *Tomorrow's Children* (2000), is renowned for her innovative perspectives on relationships, education, sex, and spirituality. Now in a similar

vein as Bill McKibben in *Deep Economy* (2007), she addresses the need for a "more equitable and sustainable economic system" based on the "essential work of caring for people and nature." Current economics fails to value the most fundamental aspects of people's daily lives, Eisler observes, and she identifies the "lack of caring" as the "common denominator" underlying grave social and environmental problems. Eisler precisely maps her detailed vision of a caring economy and diligently supports her concept with a fascinating spectrum of information and analysis of everything from how little we value child care to the true cost of war and pollution. On a deeper level, Eisler writes about how the cultural stories we absorb--women are inferior to men, nature is indestructible--perpetuate an economics that is proving disastrous. Eisler argues cogently that now is the time to invest in life. Donna Seaman

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ADVANCE PRAISE FOR THE REAL WEALTH OF NATIONS "The Real Wealth of Nations gives us a template for the better world that we have been so urgently seeking. As practical as it is hopeful, this brilliant book shows how we can build economic systems that meet both our material and spiritual needs. It illuminates the way to a bold and exciting new future." --Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate "The Real Wealth of Nations is a call to action. It is not only politicians, businesses and financial institutions that must change, but rather each one of us must play a role in developing a more caring society. This book is an important tool that can help us make that happen." --Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, Founder, the Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace "The Real Wealth of Nations is a prescription for an economic system that is both equitable and sustainable. This book should be read and used by everyone who wants a better world!" --Deepak Chopra, author of *Life After Death* "In *The Real Wealth of Nations*, Riane Eisler, long a voice of sanity and clarity in an increasingly confusing world, does what has been desperately needed for a long time: bring back a human-and nature-centric perspective to economics to show how ends and means can be integrated." --Peter Senge, author of *The Fifth Discipline* "Riane Eisler shows us how to value economically what is valuable humanly--and what could be more revolutionary than that? To imagine money not as the root of all evil, but the measure of all good, read *The Real Wealth of Nations*." --Gloria Steinem "In this brilliant new look at economic systems and how they interact with culture, Riane Eisler has created what is sure to be a classic and--hopefully--world-changing book." --Thom Hartmann, author of *Screwed* and *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* "This book should be mandatory reading for every CEO, every economist, every government official, every student, and every citizen of our world." -- Jeffrey Hollender, President, Seventh Generation, Inc. "In *The Real Wealth of Nations*, Riane Eisler lays out a comprehensive and compelling argument for why we must change national and global priorities about what work, and which workers, we value--including worldwide attitudes towards caring for our children." --Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund "An essential tool for government leaders, politicians, economists, and everyone looking for ways to halt environmental destruction, eradicate poverty, stabilize population, and build a better future, *The Real Wealth of Nations* shows us how to construct a sustainable new economy--and a good quality of life for our children and generations to come." -- The Honorable Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland 1980-1996 "The Real Wealth of Nations is a call for nothing less than a ground shift in consciousness. I urge you to read this profound and important book." --Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues* "From third world poverty to climate change, it has become increasingly clear that traditional economic thinking is not only unable to solve today's myriad of problems; it's responsible for many of them. Riane Eisler's brilliant new book expands the scope and practice of economics beyond capitalism and socialism to a new economics in which equity, justice, and environmental sanity prevail. Must reading!" -- Morris Dees, Co-founder, Southern Poverty Law Center "This is a wonderful, hopeful, book not about where we have been economically, but about the potential for economics to reflect what we truly value, quality of life, and quality of the environment." -- Daniel Kammen, Co-Director, Berkeley Institute of the Environment, Founding Director, Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, University of California "Why has conventional economics been so slow to offer compelling, useful responses to our most threatening challenges, such as environmental degradation or raging inequalities? Riane Eisler answers this question, and in doing so, reinvents the dismal science, infusing it with the essential ingredients it needs to get us out the terribly narrow box in which we've been stuck." -- Jared Bernstein, Economic Policy Institute, author, *All Together Now: Common Sense for a Fair Economy* "Visionary social critic Riane Eisler offers readers challenging new ways to think about economics, caring, and ending domination in *The Wealth of Nations*. Breaking new ground, with keen insight and brilliance she charts the journey to freedom and well-being." -- bell hooks, author, *All About Love* "Listen to Riane Eisler! No one is better at conveying the urgent message that we must abandon our economic double standard, and start valuing the essential work of caring for and investing in ourselves and our environment." -- Ann Crittenden, author, *The Price of Motherhood* "When there's a Nobel Prize in Caring, Riane Eisler deserves to be the first recipient. With the skill of a worldclass therapist, she puts the dismal science of economics on the couch, pierces through its double-speak and contradictions, and suggests practical ways for how it can become a powerful tool for humanizing. There can be no better act of caring than giving this book to every politician, civil servant, CEO, professor, and decisionmaker in your life." -- Michael Shuman, author, *The Small-Mart Revolution*