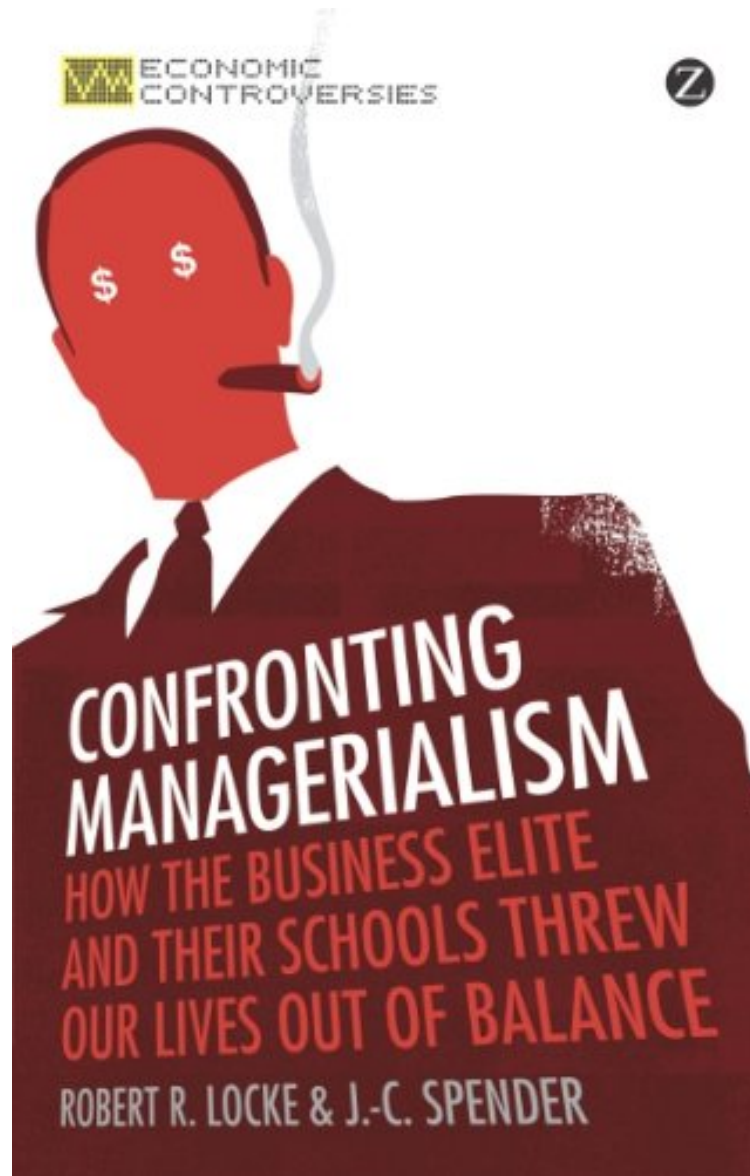


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Confronting Managerialism: How the Business Elite and Their Schools Threw Our Lives Out of Balance (Economic Controversies)

Robert R. Locke, J.-C. Spender

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Robert R. Locke, J.-C. Spender : Confronting Managerialism: How the Business Elite and Their Schools Threw Our Lives Out of Balance (Economic Controversies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confronting Managerialism: How the Business Elite and Their Schools Threw Our Lives Out of Balance (Economic Controversies):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinarily Useful Book
By Bartley J. Madden
Robert Locke and J-C Spender have written an extraordinarily useful book. In the authors' words: "Managerialism has done America great harm. No aspect of that harm is more pernicious than the role business schools have played in reinforcing the caste's sense of itself and the legitimacy of its predatory instincts done in the name of good management" (pg. 2). The result is an out-of-balance system that needs a new form of dynamic capitalism. On one level the book is a tour de force in historical analysis that puts into context many of today's important problems concerning the management of business firms. On another level, insights from leading thinkers (e.g., Tom Johnson and Mike Rother about the Toyota System) are woven into an elegant analysis of capitalism as practiced in America, which is contrasted with Japan and Germany --- all of this in a highly readable fashion. Their description of the rise of mathematical finance (closely tied to the elite business schools) and its contribution to the recent financial crisis has more insights per page than any other book on this topic that I have read. The road to sustained economic prosperity requires clear understanding of the root causes of today's economic mess. This beautifully written, short book is an important part of that analysis.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Much needed criticism of "management gone wrong" and why we are losing jobs and gdp
By Lonnie
I found this book to be jam packed with information. At times it was hard to discern how much was hard based facts and how much was opinion...but since I agreed with most of the opinion I liked it. I came away with two major points. One concept of managerialism is that by just checking the balance sheet and understanding a few financial calculation, you can run a business. That concept, although still quite pervasive, is so wrong-minded it is driving lots of manufacturing and hence jobs to other countries. It is a terribly egocentric and debilitating concept. The other takeaway was how complicit the elite business schools have been in perpetuating this farse. They provide contacts and an understanding of american business culture, which is incredibly dysfunctional. Locke and Spender do a great job at debunking so much of that junk management thinking that simply has to go. Its a topical A1 treatment in my opinion. But beware, it is not what I call an easy read. There is lots of jargon, it has a definite academic twinge with lots of long sentences, complicated paragraphs. This caused me to have to reread many sections, sometimes two or three times before I got the content and the nuances of their treatment. But I could not put it down. I recommend it to anyone that works with or in management.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great value
By Dave
The book is thought provoking and should be read by anyone studying management who wants to ensure they get a balanced view.

Confronting Managerialism offers a scathing critique of the crippling influence of neoclassical economics and modern finance on business school teaching and management practice. It shows how business managers, once well regarded as custodians of the economic engine driving growth and social progress, now seem more like the rapacious "robber barons" of the 1880s. In effect, responsible management has given way to managerialism, whereby an elite caste of businessmen disconnected from any ethical considerations now call the shots, throwing the lives of the rest of us out of balance. Confronting Managerialism is a unique, topical, and controversial look at a subject that impacts us all.

"In a brilliant and compelling narrative, Locke and Spender trace the decline of American business after World War Two to the extinction of socially responsible management. This is a truly important book ... definitely a must-read." -- H. Thomas Johnson, Professor of Sustainability Management, Portland State University