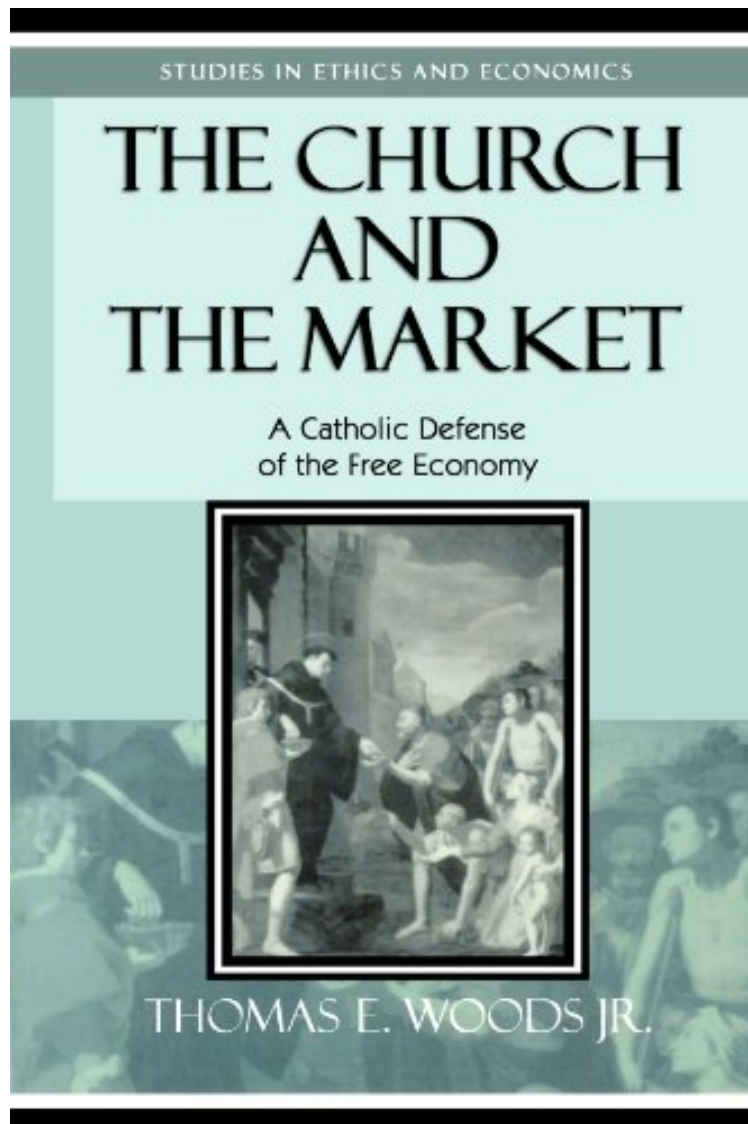


(Free pdf) The Church and the Market: A Catholic Defense of the Free Economy (Studies in Ethics and Economics)

## The Church and the Market: A Catholic Defense of the Free Economy (Studies in Ethics and Economics)

*Thomas E. Woods Jr.*  
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**Thomas E. Woods Jr. : The Church and the Market: A Catholic Defense of the Free Economy (Studies in Ethics and Economics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Church and the Market: A Catholic Defense of the Free Economy (Studies in Ethics and Economics):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. High-level academic research, accessible presentationBy Dane

Kaleja Woods has a gift for presenting high-quality scholarship in a very consumable manner. The author presents his arguments with an interesting, light-hearted but authoritative tone that is easy to read, and manages to take a topic that most people would compare to drying paint and makes it one of page-turningest non-fiction books I've read in a while. Excellent book for anyone with a basic understanding of economics (I understand that the author recommends Hazlitt's Economics in One Lesson as a primer for his own book, that's probably good advice). When understood in the same context as any other economic, historical, or literary criticism, readers will find that Woods's criticisms of Papal encyclicals and other Catholic theories are completely fair. Rather than leveling some harsh polemic at the authors and philosophers he criticizes, Woods presents reasonable, straightforward, and fair counterarguments to economic assumptions and conclusions written in a fraternal manner while explicitly maintaining the moral authority of Catholic teaching throughout the book. Any anti-Catholic readers excited to find ammunition to use against the Catholic Church will be very disappointed with the book, as will anyone with an ax to grind with capitalism or Austrian economics. However, even a non-Christian audience with an interest in economics (particularly libertarians) would probably find this book very interesting. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This book changed my life. A great introduction to the Austrian School of Economics. By Daniel T Rice I admire Dr. Woods' clarity and frankness. This book helped me make distinctions and define terms, which unfortunately is harder and harder to find these days. It is a frightening book, in that it shows that means so commonly employed do not not achieve the desired end, and often predictably produce the opposite. "The best laid plans of mice and men..." or "the road to hell is paved..." are revealed in their most horrific form. But all is not dark. It's hard to explain, but I walked away from this book with a sensation of lightning coming from my fingertips\*....from a book on economics. Who could have known? Thank you Dr. Woods. (\* =Your experience may vary.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book By Customer Just got done reading this book. I love Dr. Woods' perspective on the world. It is interesting the whole way through and he frames his argument in such a way that makes it nearly impossible to refute. His logic is unshakeable and he uses very deep and thorough empirical data to back it up. There is absolutely no fluff or BS in this book, every single time you turn the page you learn something new and interesting. I bought it to give to a friend to introduce him to Austrian School econ logic, but I think that I will recommend he reads "Economics in One Lesson" by Hazlitt or "What Has Government Done to Our Money" by Rothbard first. Not that this book is difficult to decipher, but I think that the greatest value in this book is how concisely Dr. Woods deepens and defends principles that one would get introduced to in the more basic literature.

In *The Church and the Market: A Catholic Defense of the Free Economy*, Thomas E. Woods Jr. makes a vigorous argument in favor of the market economy from a Catholic perspective. Filling a lapse in the debate on the role of religious thought in economic theory, Woods's uncompromising position, informed by the history of Catholic economic thought, shows that the long-seen contradiction between Catholic faith and support for the market economy does not exist. With attention to detail on almost all aspects of the free market, from the Federal Reserve System and inflation to antitrust legislation and labor issues, this book provides essential background for anyone interested in balancing issues of social conscience with modern economic principles.

Should be required reading for any university or seminary course in social sciences that is supposed to be grounded in Catholic social teaching. Woods puts his case with such rigor and lucidity that there is probably no other text that is more effective in supporting a discussion of the application of the Church's social teaching to specific economic issues. (Economic Affairs) Woods' book is a welcome antidote to the various combinations of economic incompetence and self-righteous posturing - "liberation theology," New Deal welfarism, social democratic interventionism, distributism - that too often masquerade as the only "authentic" interpretations of Catholic social teaching. Every Catholic - and especially every Catholic bishop - ought to consider its arguments before speaking out on economic policy. (Edward Feser, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Loyola Marymount University) Thomas Woods uses the unique perspective of the Austrian School of Economics to present a clear, compelling, and uncompromising argument that the moral teachings of the Catholic Church are completely compatible with free market capitalism. Arguing that faith should be coupled with the best of secular science in policy advocacy, Woods also shows that some elements of Catholic social doctrine are the unfortunate result of factual error rather than the application of moral principle. (Samuel Bostaph, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Dallas) Finally, someone who truly understands the science of economics has given us the most thorough examination of Catholic Social Teaching yet available. I highly recommend . . . to all desiring to see the Catholic Church's role in the economic realm in a proper light. It should be required reading for priests, bishops, and seminarians, as well as clerics of other denominations, as a remedy for the socialism that has crept into religious circles over the past century. (William R. Luckey, Chairman and Professor, Political Science and Economics Department, Christendom College) A fine contribution to the debate concerning the possible and the proper reconciliation of Catholic social doctrine with free-market economics. Professor Woods finds an interesting niche in such a complex and uneven discussion the author writes with splendid clarity, succeeding in explaining not-so-simple economic questions in very simple terms. (Christian Social

Thought)The Church and the Market is an essential tool for the Catholic free-market intellectual who is fighting the pro-state biases that too often set the terms for economic discussions of modern Catholic social teaching. From welfare and wage policies to distributist demagoguery, Woods speaks classical liberal truth to today's dominant modernist authorities, challenging them to accept at least a modicum of economic rigor into their analyses. As a result, he provides an important contribution toward defining the correct context of Catholic social teaching for the next century. (Christopher Westley, Assistant Professor of Economics, Jacksonville State University)Woods' coverage of a vast terrain (economics, history, theology, philosophy, and politics) is concise, but not breezy.... The best writing draws attention to itself only after it has been read. If the reader reflects on the human source of his literary delight, he may feel a debt of gratitude such as I felt after reading each of Woods' chapters. Woods' firm literary hand assures the reader that he is not in over his head and delivers a work that, for all its learning, goes down smoothly. (Anthony Flood, www.LewRockwell.com)Woods' central message, that sound moral statements about economic issues have to be grounded in sound economics is to my mind incontrovertible. And, in the main, Woods brings this message home with well-reasoned and well-presented analysis. Both the message and the analysis deserve careful reflection. (Homiletic Pastoral )Woods is an all-too-rare Catholic writer, one who is well versed in both Church doctrine and free-market economics.... The Church and the Market is a valuable book. (Crisis)A person with no interest at all in Catholic social thinking can still benefit from [The Church and the Market]. The author writes with splendid clarity, succeeding in explaining not-so-simple economic questions in very simple terms.... A fine contribution to the debate concerning the possible and proper reconciliation of Catholic social doctrine with free-market economic (Journal of Markets Morality)Woods, one of the best classical liberal scholars of his generation, has once more placed us in his debt with this lucid and tightly argued book. (Mises )A highly readable book that reflects much effort by a serious and gentlemanly scholar. (Quarterly Journal Of Austrian Economics) The Church and the Market makes a convincing case that the 16th Century Scholastics anticipated elements of Austrian economics. More generally, it shows that religion is not necessarily antithetical to an appreciation of what the study of economics can offer....Woods' contribution is that he reminds us of the theological origins of many economic concepts that we teach our undergraduates today. (Heterodox Economics Newsletter)From the Back Cover"A fine contribution to the debate concerning the possible and the proper reconciliation of Catholic social doctrine with free-market economics. Professor Woods finds an interesting niche in such a complex and uneven discussion the author writes with splendid clarity, succeeding in explaining not-so-simple economic questions in very simple terms."CHRISTIAN SOCIAL THOUGHT "Finally, someone who truly understands the science of economics has given us the most thorough examination of Catholic Social Teaching yet available. I highly recommend . . . to all desiring to see the Catholic Church's role in the economic realm in a proper light. It should be required reading for priests, bishops, and seminarians, as well as clerics of other denominations, as a remedy for the socialism that has crept into religious circles over the past century."William R. Luckey, Chairman and Professor, Political Science and Economics Department, Christendom College "Thomas Woods uses the unique perspective of the Austrian School of Economics to present a clear, compelling, and uncompromising argument that the moral teachings of the Catholic Church are completely compatible with free market capitalism. Arguing that faith should be coupled with the best of secular science in policy advocacy, Woods also shows that some elements of Catholic social doctrine are the unfortunate result of factual error rather than the application of moral principle."Samuel Bostaph, Chairman and Associate Professor, Economics Department, University of DallasAbout the AuthorThomas E. Woods Jr., who received his Ph.D. from Columbia University, is the author of theNew York Times bestsellerThe Politically Incorrect Guide to American History. He has written over 150 articles for popular and scholarly periodicals and is a frequent commentator on radio and television.The Church and the Market is his fourth book.