

Parijs, Philippe van. *Basic income: a radical proposal for a free society and a sane economy*, by Philippe Van Parijs and Yannick Vanderborght. Harvard, 2017. 384p bibl index ISBN 9780674052284, \$29.95; ISBN 9780674978072 ebook, contact publisher for price.

In this century, to combat increasing within-country inequality and worsening job prospects for the unskilled around the globe, public policy responses have ranged from the potentially harmful—substantial boosts in minimum wage rates and soak-the-rich tax proposals—to the potentially beneficial—doubling down on education, moving to and expanding more enlightened welfare programs. A more radical approach, considered decades ago by both the Right (Hayek, Friedman) and the Left has resurfaced and become somewhat trendy: an overhaul and merging of extant redistribution schemes into a single cash transfer program—a basic income guarantee (more generally known as UBI, or universal basic income). Contemporary supporters include Charles Murray and Mark Zuckerberg. In *Basic Income*, Van Parijs (Univ. of Louvain, Belgium) and Vanderborght (Université Saint-Louis, Belgium) trace the concept's history and philosophical underpinnings; address its ethical and sustainability concerns; explain in detail the nuts-and-bolts mechanics, objections, and constraints; and, in the end, offer a strong, well-informed, albeit it partisan endorsement. With 250 pages of text and more than 100 pages of notes and references, these scholars now have the most comprehensive summary on the table and a “square one” for productive debates and social experiments. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.