

**Crunch: why do I feel so squeezed? (and other unsolved economic mysteries).** Jared Bernstein. Berrett-Koehler, 2008. 225p index **afp** ISBN 9781576754771, \$26.95 Here in a relatively short volume, oft-quoted economist Bernstein (Economic Policy Institute; CNBC commentator; coeditor, with Lawrence Mishel and John Schmitt, of the biennial report *The State of Working America*, latest ed., 2006-07; 1996-97 ed., CH, Sep'97, 35-0395) bashes mainstream economists and economics, a discipline he claims "has been hijacked by the rich and powerful." Along the way, he tries to convince readers that he knows how to solve health care, immigration, poverty, unemployment, Social Security, education, budget deficits, and globalization problems better than these card-carrying stooges who write professional journal articles, textbooks, and mislead our children. In his "Crunchpoints" included in each chapter, he offers pithy, bottom-line summaries, preceded by a few pages of his own cherry-picking "spins" on conventional data or arguments that will appease those who feel squeezed and want to blame someone for it. Not a volume for serious academic audiences. Summing Up: Not recommended. -- A. R. Sanderson, University of Chicago