

Chang, Ha-Joon. *Economics: the user's guide*. Bloomsbury, 2014. 365p index afp ISBN 9781620408124, \$30.00.

This book by economist Chang (Cambridge Univ., UK) should be the poster child for the word "tweener." Not quite an introductory text (although that is the category into which the author places it), the book is "a mile wide and an inch deep" and includes "everything but the kitchen sink" in terms of level of detail and scope of coverage. While the book is certainly not value free, the author is more objective and has less of a political chip on his shoulder than in previous books, *23 Things They Don't Tell You about Capitalism* (2011) and *Bad Samaritans* (CH, Jan'09, 46-2781). In 12 chapters, plus prologue, interlude, and epilogue, and without equations, graphs, or tables, Chang takes his audience on a journey through economic thought and thinkers, contemporary hot-button topics such as GDP and happiness, the world of finance, inequality and poverty, work and unemployment, and the role of the state. He manages this with more international, real-world contexts than the more US-centric emphasis and theoretical analyses one usually sees. In spite of its warts, this is an interesting, entertaining, and worthwhile contribution that offers a picture of the global economy and how and why it affects daily life. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers.