

Ebenstein, Lanny. *Chicagonomics: the evolution of Chicago free market economics*. St. Martin's, 2015. 278p bibl index ISBN 9780230621954, \$29.99; ISBN 9781466891128 ebook, \$14.99.

Because he has written before on related subjects, Ebenstein (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara) treads what is for him familiar ground. His thesis: well-known Chicago scholars, principally Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman, were not always the free-market, take-no-prisoners libertarians people have come to love or loathe but in fact evolved over time, as did the "Chicago School." But with all due apologies to the Bard, the author doth protest too much. His obsession with inequality (in a treatment that is mediocre at best)—which he discusses from beginning to end of the book—compromises his ability to sift through complementary material and concomitant Chicago economists other than Frank Knight, Jacob Viner, and George Stigler. Missing completely are Friedman's contemporaries—Arnold Harberger, Zvi Griliches, Gregg Lewis—and their modern-day descendants. Other giants—Gary Becker, Eugene Fama, Robert Lucas Jr., Merton Miller, Sam Peltzman—get short shrift. Appendixes include an interview with Friedman on Hayek and a letter from Paul Samuelson about Friedman. Researchers will appreciate and benefit from the 20-page bibliographical essay and superb endnotes. Summing Up: Optional. Graduate students, general readers.