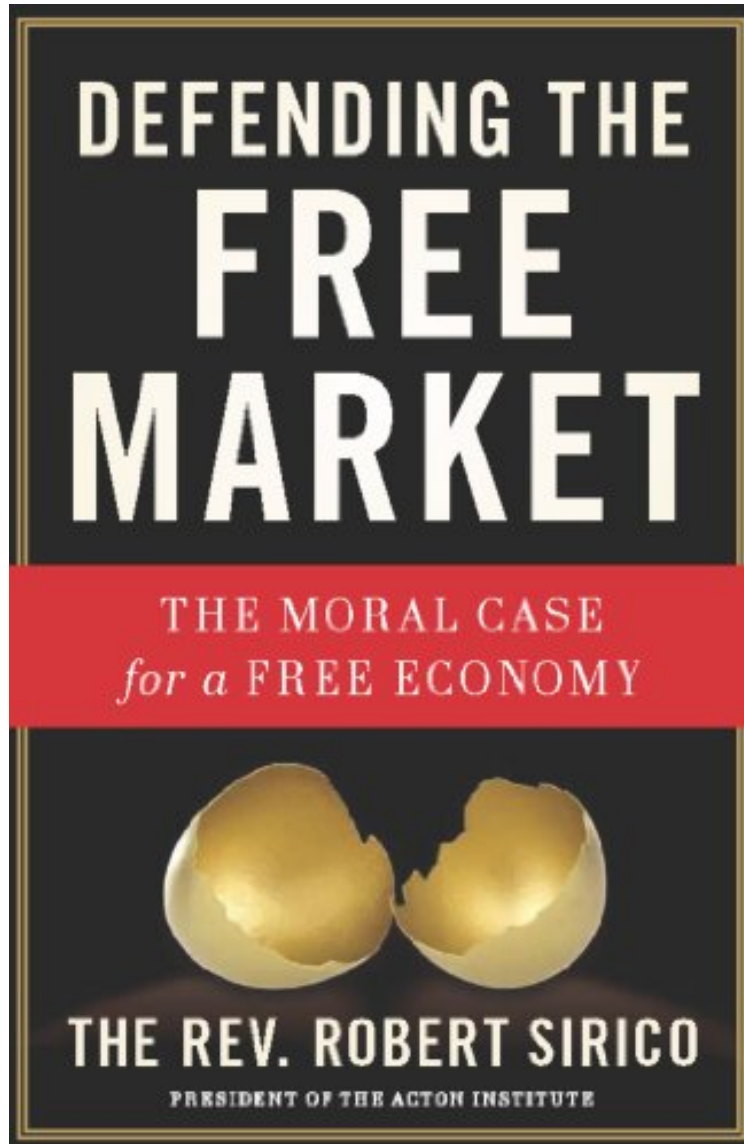


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## Defending the Free Market: The Moral Case for a Free Economy

*Robert A. Sirico*

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**Robert A. Sirico : Defending the Free Market: The Moral Case for a Free Economy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defending the Free Market: The Moral Case for a Free Economy:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The free market defended with clarity and powerBy Paul MastinWhenever the Left needs a clergyman to provide a religious defense of leftist ideas, they never have to look far. Leftist pastors and priests will line up around the block to spout their liberal ideas cloaked in religious garb. But when seeking a thoughtful, Christian defense of the free market, the list is pretty short, and at the top of that very short list is

Rev. Robert Sirico, president of the Acton Institute. At long last, alumni of Acton's programs, fans of Father Sirico's appearances on talk shows and congressional hearings, and those lucky enough to have heard him speak publicly around the world, have a compendium of many of his personal stories and economic and political ideas in print. As one who was deeply impacted by Acton's programs as a seminarian, who worked for Acton for four years, and who continues to follow their work closely, I was delighted to read Father Sirico's book, *Defending the Free Market: The Moral Case for a Free Economy*. Many of the stories and illustrations in *Defending the Free Market* were so familiar to me that I could almost hear Father Sirico's voice as I read. His insights into economic issues are as compelling as ever, even more so given his extensive sourcing and illustrations. I have heard Father Sirico said he is a polemicist, not a scholar. That may be true, and the brief chapters herein are not scholarly articles. But as he covers a variety of important topics, including health care, charity, equality, and capitalism, he provides plenty of fodder for those looking to start a debate or do further scholarly research. Even more than a reflection of his pointed analysis, *Defending the Free Market* showcases Father Sirico's giftedness as a communicator. I challenge even the most hardened socialist to give Father Sirico an honest reading; his mind may not be changed, but at least he will understand and appreciate Father Sirico's reasoning. Above all, Father Sirico is a pastor. Economics is, after all, about people. Economic systems can be measured by the good they do for people. Economic freedom is not about wealth for its own sake, but we must point to the "undeniable fact that a free economy is the way to prosperity." Preach on, Father Sirico! And thanks for finally putting all of these ideas in one terrific volume.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional explanation of why economics isn't just materialistic. By Anton Hertle This is a truly exceptional book because of how it integrates a complete worldview and economics. Too often, books on economics are materialistic. They don't account for, nor explain, human interaction and community. They view the world as a single pie, and for someone to have more, someone has to lose. They view everything as a zero-sum game. Fr. Sirico has a more integrated worldview. He explains how human flourishing affects markets, and gives by far the most comprehensive explanation of how Japan, with virtually no natural resources, created such a prosperous and stable economy. He also addresses the future, something few economists do effectively. He describes the key factors that create prosperous economies that don't abuse the environment, and gives solutions for effective resolution of the poor. Best line in the book: "Charity has never raised anyone out of poverty." This gives you an idea of how differently he thinks about charity and giving. I strongly recommend buying this, and bringing it to your Thanksgiving dinner.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A thoughtful, easily accessible discourse of the topic of ethics and markets. By St. Joe's amigo This was an insightful and well written discourse on the value of the free market on society. I would say I agreed with about 90% of it. Whether you are a fiscal conservative or not, this will give you a clear understanding of it. This is more than a superficial examination, it attempts to give the practical implications in a moral and ethical context. There were some facets that I think are open for a deeper debate (some points in the markets relation to health care particularly.) Yet it presents its case well.

The Left has seized on our economic troubles as an excuse to "blame the rich guy"; and paint a picture of capitalism and the free market as selfish, greedy, and cruel. Democrats in Congress and "Occupy"; protesters across the country assert that the free market is not only unforgiving, it's morally corrupt. According to President Obama and his allies, only by allowing the government to heavily control and regulate business and by redistributing the wealth can we ensure fairness and compassion. Exactly the opposite is true, says Father Robert A. Sirico in his thought-provoking new book, *The Moral Case for a Free Economy*