



The Sages: Warren Buffett, George Soros, Paul Volcker, and the Maelstrom of Markets

Charles R. Morris

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Throughout the violent financial disruptions of the past several years, three men have stood out as beacons of judgment and wisdom: Warren Buffett, George Soros, and Paul Volcker. Though their experiences and styles vary—Buffett is the canny stock market investor; Soros is the reader of shifting global tides in trade and currencies; and Volcker is the regulator and governor, sheriff and clean-up crew—they have very much in common. All three men have more than fifty years of deep involvement in markets. All are skeptical of Wall Street frenzies. They believe that markets tend to be right, but usually only over the medium term. They have seen too many cycles of herd-driven, emotion-riding booms and busts to make their views hostage to the sweeping and simplistic assumptions of “efficient-markets” models.

With the benefit of his own deep understanding of markets and finance, Morris brilliantly analyzes the records of these men, distilling their wisdom and experience—and argues for the importance of consistent values in navigating the treacherous terrain of today’s globalized world.

The Sages: Warren Buffett, George Soros, Paul Volcker, and the Maelstrom of Markets Details

Date : Published June 9th 2009 by PublicAffairs (first published 2009)

ISBN : 9781586487522

Author : Charles R. Morris

Format : Hardcover 201 pages

Genre : Business, Nonfiction, Economics, Finance, Biography

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From Reader Review The Sages: Warren Buffett, George Soros, Paul Volcker, and the Maelstrom of Markets for online ebook

Jeff says

Short but dense and not for the layman. Good analysis of the dangers of strict adherence to "Chicago school monetarism" and "neo-Keynesian" economics. I also enjoyed the contrasting styles of investing by George Soros and Warren Buffett which nevertheless resulted in similar successes. Paul Volckner's time at the Fed also demonstrated regulatory balance and foresight that might be termed "success." Morris does an excellent job demonstrating the common sense that Volker, Soros, and Buffett apply to challenging financial situations. Their common-sense balanced practices and ideologies predicted the 2008 financial crisis when all others felt that these three sages were past their prime. This is a great summation of each man's great abilities and foresight and the inability of Ivy League economists to really predict the future.

Tom Schulte says

Very insightful views by three financial sages about how the world economy got to where it is. In here, Buffett offers three sage principles to govern investing: Don't invest in what you don't understand, don't take advice from those that get rich investing other's money and go for moderate growth - it's sustainable

Ron Jensen says

Enjoyed the book, although this is one I should have read in hard copy rather than an audio book, due to the complexity of the financial jargon.

Brian says

A churned out book as simple as a senior thesis. Subjects are lauded as virtually flawless; economics is treated as a joke. Not enough substance to back up any of these points. But you will learn a little something about each figure, so the book has some value as a quick read.

Jose Yong says

Pretty good outline of biographies of Warren Buffet, George Soros, Paul Volcker.
I like the author's conclusion of the book

thewestchestarian says

Exceedingly straightforward bios of the 3 business giants. Very little exposition is required about the book – Morris presents clear-cut medium-length biographical sketches of the greatest two contemporary American (where's Carlos Slim's bio?) investors and another on the government regulator Paul Volcker. He concludes with an essay that promises to synthesize the learnings from the three lives into a coherent whole but rather presents the tired to the point of exhaustion argument that economists make poor prognostications (his conclusion that economists are akin to meteorologists is insulting - at least the local weather girl can tell you it will be warm come July). He does a little compare and contrast with Buffet and Soros but mostly emphasizes that they exercised diametrically different trading styles – not a particularly show-stopping insight. So the three subjects' bios and the concluding essay do not concordant book make but do the parts of the whole work? To a degree, yes, Morris lays out the lives and jaw-dropping accomplishments (had you invested \$10,000USD in Soros' fund at inception you would have cashed out with \$43,000,000USD) in a clean, linear march from cradle to current economic catastrophe. There is a dearth of interesting asides or repeatable tales from their lives and Morris' style is the classic academic style of first saying what you are going to say, saying it and then recapping what you said. If you need source material for a school project on any of the three crib from Morris. If you need a more substantial or entertaining recounting insight consult other sources such as the 900 page "The Snowball" about Buffet or any of the first-person accounts from Soros.

Geoffrey Sadek says

Pretty dry, pretty simplistic. If you're into history, there are probably better books than this.

Effendy Yahaya says

To discover their facts in a quick review.

Mercurialgem says

I liked it because it was a short little bio on each of them. It could be a little confusing with all the financial terminology but I still enjoyed it. I got it bc of Mr. Buffett but enjoyed learning about the others. I would recommend this as a book you check out at the library instead of spending money on it.

Valters Bondars says

7/10
