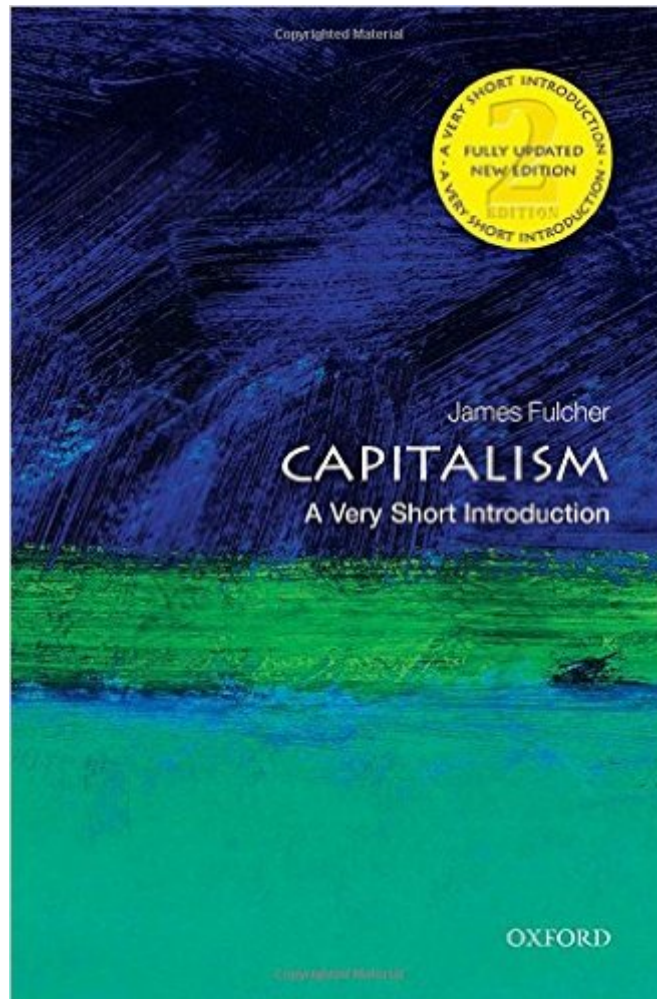


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# Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



## Synopsis

What is capitalism? Is capitalism the same everywhere? Is there an alternative? The word "capitalism" is one that is heard and used frequently, but what is capitalism really all about, and what does it mean? This Very Short Introduction addresses questions such as, "what is capital?" before discussing the history and development of capitalism through several detailed case studies, ranging from the tulipomania of 17th century Holland, the Great Depression of the 1930s, and in this new edition, the impact of the global financial crisis that started in 2007-08. James Fulcher looks at the different forms that capitalism takes in Britain, Japan, Sweden, and the United States, and explores whether capitalism has escaped the nation-state by going global. It ends by asking whether there is an alternative to capitalism, discussing socialism, communal and cooperative experiments, and the alternatives proposed by environmentalists. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction" is an excellent overview of debates about capitalism and how and why it emerged, as well as an analysis of capitalism's tendency to crisis. Drawing on

material from a wide range of historical and contemporary societies, Fulcher brings together sociological and historical approaches to the study of capitalism and the various forms it takes worldwide. Fulcher highlights the problems of financial capitalism by identifying two crisis mechanisms - overproduction/under-consumption, and financial crisis of credit expansion and contraction. He also explores the deflationary consequences of quantitative easing (QE), the contraction of credit, and the role of China in the global economy. Despite a mostly Marxist-inspired analysis, the book ends on a distinctly pessimistic, albeit reformist note, encouraging those that desire to change social conditions to work for reforms within capitalism. (Perhaps Fulcher forgot that thatâ™s been tried before, and it doesnâ™t work.) New to this edition is a discussion of the global financial crisis of 2007-08 and its ongoing effects, and an updated further reading section.

It's very interesting.

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