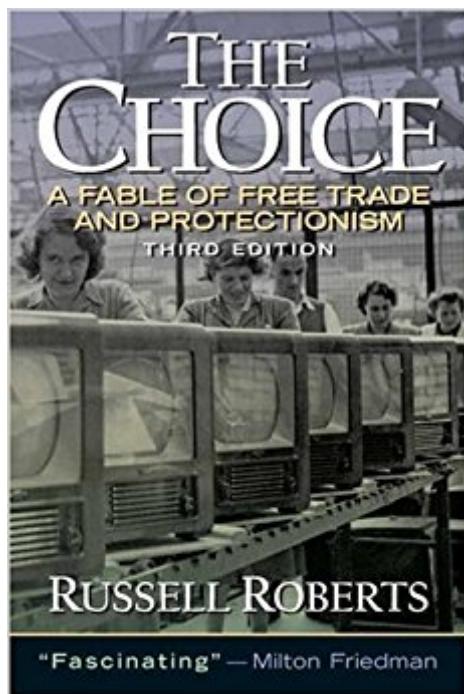


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# The Choice: A Fable Of Free Trade And Protection (3rd Edition)



## **Synopsis**

Written as a novel, the book makes the complex concepts, issues and terminology of international trade understandable for students. Professors complain that their students cannot grasp the nature of how some economic tools are used or how they work in life. This novel bridges the gap of concepts with applications by use of a fictional story. David Ricardo comes to life to discuss international trade theory and policy with Ed Johnson, a fictional American television manufacturer seeking trade protection from television manufacturers. Their dialogue is a sophisticated, rigorous discussion of virtually every major issue in trade theory and policy. To illustrate the positive and normative effects of international trade and trade policy, Ricardo takes the reader and Ed Johnson into the future to see an America of free trade and an America of complete self-sufficiency. The fictional element brings these topics to life so that students gain the intuition and understanding of how trade changes the lives of people and the industries they work in. The fundamental intuition of how international markets function including general equilibrium effects and policy analysis is provided.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I had to read this book for class. It was the fourth of four books I had to read for the class. I rather quite enjoyed this book. It made 'scary' economic topics like free trade, dumping, trade policy, etc. easy to understand. The examples were simple, but really made the topics understandable. I'm new to the economics/business world, so this was a valuable book to read. I definitely recommend this book and I may use it in my future. I gave it four stars because the book did drag at times, but for

the most part, it was great.

**Content Summary:** This book is a fairly effective defense of Free Trade, and focuses upon a summary of the ideas of David Ricardo. It is set as a imaginary dialogue between Ricardo, and a fictional U.S. television manufacturer. Ricardo is trying to redeem his lost soul (very much modeled after the Jimmy Stewart picture, "It's a Wonderful Life") by defending his ideas about free trade and comparative advantage to the U.S. businessman. The intent is to defeat the idea that tariffs and trade barrier protectionism helps.

**Analytical Review:** For those not highly motivated to read Ricardo's economic classic ("On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation"), this is a very readable alternative that simplifies his ideas. It presents the free trade arguments in a very accessible format. Many examples are very clear and compelling, others not so much. Whether you with free trade mantra or not, this is a good, clear defense to be read, digested, and reflected upon.

This is a short short that includes economic principles in real life examples. This was originally assigned by my economics professor as an extra credit assignment. I absolutely loved the book and have shared it with two others so far. This book also helped me get ahead in economics while others were beginning to struggle. I do enjoy economics, but I am NOT an economics major; If you are interested in learning more about economics this is a great book, but you must first understand what a comparative advantage is when talking about economics. I hope this review helps.

Interesting read. Wished it talked a bit more about how to support those who were unable to adapt to free trade and therefore suffered and turned to protectionism.

This was a great little read. I actually had to read it for my masters class but I enjoyed it. It's clear the points he's trying to get across, so it's easy to follow. At the same time, it has a little "Miracle of 34th street" flavor.

I found the book particularly helpful for my Macro class. It stated ideas in a easy way to understand, but connected everything together. Made difficult topics easy

This is a great book if you're trying to understand the big picture of trading. Yes it's fictional but a great way to read about economics and enjoy it. I think everyone learns differently and this is a great way to diverge from what can be dry and boring textbook learning to something more

enjoyable. I'll use the book's example and say the best thing to compare it to is "It's a Wonderful Life" only econ style!

A very readable book. It makes the theoretical, moral, and empirical cases for free trade without using jargon or coming off as an ideological rant. The story is relatable and endearing. Though it isn't an academic text it does a great job of illustrating fairly complex principles.

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