

Escaping Oz is a must read. No Wizard Will Take Us Out of Oz this Time

Jim Mosquera's *Escaping Oz: Protecting your wealth during the financial crisis* is an intriguing read that delves into questions about why our economy is in such chaos and confusion. The book, using *The Wizard of Oz* as a metaphor, encourages citizens to understand what they can do to protect their assets and help eradicate the economic mess plaguing our country. More importantly, Mosquera poses critical questions about our country's political and economic future, detailing precisely how we got to be in this position, and how we're going to get out. There is no "wizard" that's going to come to the rescue and the path this economy is following is certainly not the yellow brick road.

In technical terms, *Escaping Oz* discusses the number one problem in today's economy: "Our economy became overly dependent on lending and borrowing." However, both lending and borrowing are based on confidence from both sides. In other words, the lender has confidence that the borrower will have the means and sources by which to repay the amount of the loan, and of course, the borrower is confident in his/her ability to repay the loan. Right now, confidence is dragging, to put it nicely.

Jim describes how money has been perceived throughout history, from money in the Americas, to money during the Colonial era, and finally the value of money during the War for Independence. The fact is that money is constantly evolving with respect to its value and its use, both at home and abroad.

More than anything else, however, the book revolves around two concepts familiar to the masses: debt and credit. Jim Mosquera poses a number of eye-opening questions and even bolder statements. For example, he states that today, the evolution of money has taken the form of credit. More specifically, he writes, "As of June 2010, there is approximately \$13.8 trillion of credit extended to the United States Government." Interestingly, the deficit facing the government is simply the difference between the revenue accrued and the credit amount allotted to the United States.

Two underlying questions that should set off mental alarms far and wide: if the government could eliminate its entire deficit through taxation alone, why isn't it doing it? Why is it widening the deficit gap by tacking on more credit?

Overall, the parallels between *The Wizard of Oz* and the wizard known as the United States government make this book an informative and enjoyable read. While there is extensive information on government strategies, there is an entire section (Part III) dedicated to the individual's own business model. Jim Mosquera presents his audience with strategies pertaining to bank, real estate, and stock investing, including managing one's portfolio and planning for the future.

Escaping Oz is a must read! And once you have a copy, you should stand up tall, close your eyes and click your heels together, saying, "There's nothing like being debt free, there's nothing like being debt free, there's nothing like . . ."

Review by Todd Rutherford (Professional book reviewer)

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



A Simple Man in a Complex World

"My parents tried to teach me about the value of a dollar at a very early age, stressing "if you can't buy it with your own money, you can't afford it." Somehow over the years, I forgot their sage advice. It had carried them through some very challenging financial times, including job losses, unexpected medical bills and of course, much of my own formal education. Jim's book was a valuable wake-up call to me, a refreshing splash of cold water in my face. It pointed out, in simple terms I could easily absorb, that cash is still king in today's world, and that my folks were right (once again). Its comparisons to the Wizard of Oz made this self-realization experience an enjoyable ride as well. And I am no longer waiting for the Wizard in Washington D.C. to fix my financial situation. I believe it is a must read for all, whether you are just beginning your journey, or "playing the back nine" as my kids remind me of my status on a daily basis."

Review by John Cushman

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



Assessing your investment strategies

"I found *Escaping Oz* to be a book filled with the background info and the financial examples I have been interested in finding to read. It is thorough in its presentation of the past and the current economic times."

Review by Marilyn Omohundro

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



"If you are interested in educating yourself about the state of the economy, government finances and protecting your wealth, then Jim Mosquera's book is for you. It is an easy read and explains complicated financial information in terms that a layman can understand."

Review by Sharath Sahadevan

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



The Financial Land of Oz

"In *Escaping Oz: Protecting your wealth during the financial crisis*, the author Jim Mosquera compares the financial meltdown to the Wizard of Oz. He shares with us with a comparison to OZ, how you can protect your money during this economic crisis. He explains what went wrong, the history of finance and how it will affect you based on your age and how much more time you have to make money, save money and protect it.

For example he talks about how finance and this economic crisis affect you if you are in your 20's and finishing up or still in college, if you are in your 30's and maybe unemployed and living back at home with your parents, if you have kids and supporting them, if you are in your 40's and trying to survive while trying to plan to pay for your kids college, or in your 50's and 60's and trying to consider retirement. He explains how current conditions affect each of those groups and offers solutions and ideas that can help you thrive."

Review by Michelle Dunn

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars



A provocative, highly recommended read!

"Anyone lulled into complacency by the predominant media narratives of a slow and steady, yet broadly inevitable U.S. economic recovery should read this book. Its nuanced ideas are overlaid onto a crisp and easily understood/remembered foundation of economic precepts, many of which will be new, or newly cast, to many readers. On top of this foundation, readers can discern principles with which they may both agree and disagree, but principles -- and implications -- they are well-advised to understand. A provocative, highly recommended read!"

Review by Name withheld

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



Clear, Concise, Fun and Compelling: Should be read and considered

“Clear, concise, fun and compelling. Those are not words that usually come to me when reflecting on a book about economics, but Jim Mosquera has produced exactly that in *Escaping Oz: Protecting your wealth during the financial crisis*. The analysis is so strong that, for anyone who cares about money in a responsible manner, this book should be read and considered, especially in these confusing times. “

Review by Steven Spierer (Host of Talk Radio One – The Steven Spierer Show)

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



Financial planning for everyone!

“If you've ever wondered how our financial system came to be, this is the book to buy. I've always considered myself financially astute, but after reading *Escaping Oz*, I realized that I knew very little about how our economy truly operates. Jim provides all of this information in a format that is easy to read and comprehend. You do not need to be a "financial wizard" to understand it. This is one of the books I will make my kids read before sending them out on their own.”

Review by Brian Sherman

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars



Common sense for uncommon times

“If you are trying to understand the current situation that our economy is in and how it affects your investing strategy, then this is the book for you. Jim provides an excellent explanation of just how we as a country got into this economic mess that we are in. He explains why the crisis is not over, but rather how it is just the beginning of a cyclical multi-generational bear market and economic downturn. The author uses easy to understand terminology and provides lots of illustrations and metaphors to explain complex concepts. However, he doesn't just tell us where we have been and where we are, he thoughtfully postulates what the future will likely be and provides excellent guidance on how to invest and live to prepare for that economic reality. Mr. Mosquera clearly knows his stuff and he shares his valuable insights liberally. I highly recommend this book and the sage advice that it contains. I will be employing several of the recommended investment strategies to prepare my portfolio for the wreckage to come. I suggest beginning reading at Chapter 5 and 6 and then go to the epilogue and then start at the beginning. I personally liked the flow of the reading better by doing that, but it is just a suggestion.”

Review by Phil Dyer

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

