

principles of economics saifedean ammous

principles of economics saifedean ammous represent a distinctive and influential approach to understanding economic theory and practice. Saifedean Ammous, a prominent economist and author, is best known for his critical examination of conventional economic principles through the lens of Austrian economics and his advocacy for sound money, particularly Bitcoin. This article delves into the fundamental concepts presented by Ammous, exploring his views on money, capital, and economic incentives. It further analyzes his critiques of mainstream economic thought and how his principles contribute to contemporary economic discourse. Readers will gain insights into the key themes of Ammous's work and how they relate to broader economic theories. The discussion will also cover the practical implications of adopting Ammous's economic principles in today's financial landscape. This comprehensive overview serves as a valuable resource for students, economists, and anyone interested in alternative economic perspectives.

- Foundations of Saifedean Ammous's Economic Philosophy
- Concepts of Money and Sound Money
- Capital and Time Preference
- Critiques of Mainstream Economic Theories
- Economic Incentives and Human Behavior
- Implications for Modern Economics

Foundations of Saifedean Ammous's Economic Philosophy

At the core of the principles of economics Saifedean Ammous advocates lies a strong foundation in Austrian economics, which emphasizes individual choice, subjective value, and the importance of time in economic decision-making. Ammous builds on this framework by integrating a rigorous analysis of monetary theory and capital formation. His philosophy stresses the necessity of understanding economics from a historical and evolutionary perspective, recognizing how institutions and technologies shape economic outcomes. The principles of economics Saifedean Ammous presents challenge conventional Keynesian and neoclassical models by focusing more on sound money and the role of savings in driving economic growth. This foundation underpins his broader critique of economic policies that rely heavily on fiat currencies and government intervention.

Historical Context and Austrian Economics

Saifedean Ammous situates his economic principles within the tradition of Austrian economics, which traces back to economists like Ludwig von Mises and Friedrich Hayek. This school of thought prioritizes the study of individual actions and the dynamic processes of markets over static equilibrium models. Ammous's work reflects this emphasis, advocating for economic analysis that accounts for the temporal aspects of production and consumption. His interpretation of Austrian economics serves as a counterpoint to dominant economic paradigms, offering alternative explanations for economic phenomena such as inflation, business cycles, and capital accumulation.

Emphasis on Individual Choice

Fundamental to Ammous's principles is the belief that economics is primarily about human action and choice. He posits that individuals make economic decisions based on their subjective preferences, available information, and expectations about the future. This focus on individual agency contrasts with models that treat economic agents as homogenous or purely rational actors. By highlighting the role of personal decision-making, Ammous's framework offers a more nuanced understanding of market dynamics and economic coordination.

Concepts of Money and Sound Money

One of the defining elements of the principles of economics Saifedean Ammous promotes is his robust analysis of money. He argues that money is not merely a medium of exchange but a critical institution that influences the structure of an entire economy. Ammous emphasizes the importance of sound money—money that maintains its purchasing power over time and resists arbitrary inflation. His advocacy for sound money challenges the prevailing reliance on fiat currency systems, which he views as prone to distortion and economic instability.

Definition and Functions of Money

According to Ammous, money serves three primary functions: a medium of exchange, a unit of account, and a store of value. These functions are interdependent and essential for a well-functioning economy. He highlights that the store of value function is often overlooked but is crucial for fostering savings and investment. Without a reliable store of value, individuals cannot plan effectively for the future, leading to suboptimal economic outcomes.

Bitcoin as Sound Money

Ammous is widely recognized for his argument that Bitcoin represents a form of sound money suitable for the digital age. He posits that Bitcoin's fixed supply and decentralized nature protect it from inflationary pressures that afflict fiat currencies. This characteristic, he argues, aligns with the principles of economics Saifedean Ammous supports, particularly the promotion of monetary stability and capital preservation. Bitcoin, in his view, offers a

practical solution to the problems associated with conventional monetary systems.

Capital and Time Preference

Another central theme in the principles of economics Saifedean Ammous expounds is the concept of capital and its relation to time preference. Capital, in this context, refers to the stock of resources used for future production. Ammous underscores the importance of saving and deferring consumption to accumulate capital, which then enables economic growth and wealth creation. Time preference—the degree to which individuals prefer present consumption over future consumption—is a critical determinant of economic behavior and capital formation.

Role of Savings in Economic Growth

Ammous asserts that savings are the foundation of capital accumulation and the driver of long-term economic progress. By postponing immediate consumption, individuals free resources for investment in productive activities. This process leads to the development of more sophisticated goods, services, and technologies. The principles of economics Saifedean Ammous highlight that without sufficient saving, economies remain stagnant and vulnerable to crises caused by consumption-driven imbalances.

Low vs. High Time Preference

Time preference influences economic decisions significantly. Individuals with a low time preference value future benefits more highly and are therefore more likely to save and invest. Conversely, high time preference leads to prioritizing immediate gratification, often resulting in excessive consumption and underinvestment. Ammous argues that modern monetary policies and credit expansion tend to artificially lower interest rates, distorting time preference signals and encouraging unsustainable economic behavior.

Critiques of Mainstream Economic Theories

The principles of economics Saifedean Ammous articulate a thorough critique of mainstream economic theories, particularly those associated with Keynesianism and monetarism. Ammous challenges the assumptions underlying these models, such as the efficacy of government intervention and the reliability of central bank policies. His critique centers on the long-term consequences of debt expansion, inflation, and the misallocation of resources.

Criticism of Fiat Currency Systems

Ammous strongly criticizes fiat currency, which is not backed by physical commodities and is subject to government manipulation. He argues that fiat money inherently leads to inflation, eroding savings and distorting price signals. This distortion undermines the

efficient allocation of resources and can precipitate economic cycles of boom and bust. The principles of economics Saifedean Ammous emphasize the need for monetary discipline to ensure economic stability and prosperity.

Limitations of Keynesian Economics

Keynesian economics, with its focus on demand management and fiscal stimulus, is viewed skeptically by Ammous. He contends that such policies often provide only short-term relief while creating long-term distortions. According to Ammous, artificially low interest rates and increased government spending discourage saving and promote malinvestment, ultimately leading to economic crises. His principles advocate for a more restrained and market-based approach to economic management.

Economic Incentives and Human Behavior

Understanding economic incentives is vital to the principles of economics Saifedean Ammous presents. He emphasizes that incentives shape human behavior and drive economic outcomes. Economic systems must align incentives properly to encourage productive activity, innovation, and responsible financial behavior. Ammous's approach integrates insights from psychology and behavioral economics to explain how individuals respond to various economic signals.

Incentive Structures in Markets

Markets function effectively when incentives promote cooperation and long-term planning. Ammous highlights that sound money and stable institutions create an environment where individuals are incentivized to save, invest, and innovate. Conversely, distortions such as inflation and artificial credit expansion disrupt these incentives, leading to reckless spending and economic inefficiency.

Behavioral Responses to Monetary Policy

Monetary policy influences behavior by altering interest rates and liquidity conditions. Ammous argues that expansionary policies often encourage risk-taking and debt accumulation, which can be unsustainable. His principles suggest that understanding these behavioral responses is crucial for designing policies that support economic resilience and sustainable growth.

Implications for Modern Economics

The principles of economics Saifedean Ammous advocate have significant implications for contemporary economic thought and policy. His emphasis on sound money, capital accumulation, and accurate incentive structures challenges prevailing economic orthodoxies. These principles encourage policymakers and economists to reconsider the

long-term effects of monetary and fiscal interventions and to explore alternatives that prioritize economic stability and individual freedom.

Relevance to Financial Innovation

Ammous's principles provide a framework for evaluating emerging financial technologies, especially cryptocurrencies. By applying his criteria of sound money and capital preservation, these innovations can be assessed for their potential to improve economic outcomes. The principles of economics Saifedean Ammous suggest that adopting technologies aligned with sound monetary principles could mitigate systemic risks inherent in current financial systems.

Policy Recommendations Based on Ammous's Principles

Policy recommendations derived from Ammous's work typically include:

- Adopting monetary systems that resist inflation and maintain purchasing power.
- Encouraging savings and investment through market-based interest rates.
- Limiting government intervention and reducing fiscal deficits.
- Promoting financial literacy and awareness of economic incentives.
- Supporting innovation that aligns with sound economic fundamentals.

These recommendations aim to foster sustainable economic growth and reduce the volatility associated with current macroeconomic policies.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Saifedean Ammous and what is his contribution to economics?

Saifedean Ammous is an economist and author known for his work on the economics of Bitcoin and sound money. He is best known for his book 'The Bitcoin Standard,' where he explores the principles of economics through the lens of monetary theory and advocates for Bitcoin as a superior form of money.

What are the key principles of economics discussed by Saifedean Ammous?

Saifedean Ammous emphasizes principles such as sound money, time preference, and the importance of saving and investment. He argues that a stable monetary system

encourages long-term planning and economic growth, and critiques fiat currency for its inflationary tendencies.

How does Saifedean Ammous define sound money in his economic principles?

Saifedean Ammous defines sound money as a monetary system that is scarce, durable, divisible, and portable, resisting arbitrary inflation. He believes sound money preserves purchasing power over time, incentivizing saving and investment, which are crucial for sustainable economic development.

What is Saifedean Ammous's perspective on fiat currency versus Bitcoin?

Ammous critiques fiat currency for its susceptibility to inflation and government manipulation, which he argues distorts economic signals and harms savers. He promotes Bitcoin as a decentralized, scarce digital asset that embodies sound money principles and can serve as a better monetary standard.

How does time preference relate to Saifedean Ammous's principles of economics?

Time preference, in Ammous's framework, refers to individuals' preference for present goods over future goods. Lower time preference means valuing the future more, leading to more saving and investment. He argues that sound money lowers time preference by preserving value over time, fostering economic growth.

Can Saifedean Ammous's principles of economics be applied to modern economic policy?

Yes, Ammous's principles suggest that economic policies should prioritize monetary stability and sound money to promote saving, investment, and long-term growth. His ideas challenge current inflationary policies and advocate for reforms that limit monetary expansion and encourage financial responsibility.

Additional Resources

1. The Bitcoin Standard: The Decentralized Alternative to Central Banking

This book by Saifedean Ammous explores the history of money and the role of Bitcoin as a revolutionary form of sound money. It provides an in-depth analysis of economic principles related to money supply, inflation, and the impact of central banking. Ammous argues that Bitcoin offers a more stable and reliable monetary system compared to traditional fiat currencies.

2. Energy and Wealth: The Economics of Energy Scarcity

Focusing on the intersection of energy resources and economic growth, this book examines how energy scarcity influences economic systems and policy decisions. It discusses the

principles of supply and demand in energy markets and the long-term effects of energy constraints on wealth creation. The book offers insights into sustainable economic development and resource management.

3. Sound Money and Economic Stability

This title delves into the concept of sound money as a foundation for economic stability and growth. It reviews historical monetary systems and explains how sound money can prevent inflationary spirals and financial crises. The author highlights the importance of monetary discipline and the risks associated with fiat currency manipulation.

4. Capital, Time, and Economic Growth

Exploring the role of capital accumulation and time preference in economic development, this book presents a framework for understanding investment and savings behavior. It discusses how individuals' time preferences impact capital formation and long-term economic prosperity. The book integrates classical economic theories with modern financial insights.

5. The Economics of Cryptocurrency: Beyond Bitcoin

This work expands on the principles introduced in *The Bitcoin Standard* by analyzing various cryptocurrencies and their economic implications. It covers topics such as tokenomics, decentralized finance, and the future of digital assets in global markets. The book aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how blockchain technology transforms traditional economic models.

6. Inflation, Deflation, and Monetary Policy

This book provides a detailed examination of inflation and deflation dynamics and the role of central banks in managing these phenomena. It explains how monetary policy decisions affect economic cycles, purchasing power, and wealth distribution. The author critiques conventional approaches and suggests alternative monetary frameworks.

7. Economic Freedom and Market Efficiency

Addressing the principles of free markets and economic liberty, this book explores how minimal government intervention can lead to efficient resource allocation. It discusses the benefits of competition, property rights, and voluntary exchange in promoting economic growth. The author uses historical examples to illustrate the impact of economic freedom on prosperity.

8. Debt, Credit, and Economic Cycles

This title investigates the role of debt and credit in driving economic expansions and contractions. It explains how excessive borrowing can lead to financial instability and economic downturns. The book also explores mechanisms for managing credit cycles to ensure sustainable economic progress.

9. Money, Markets, and Society: An Austrian Economics Perspective

Drawing on Austrian economic principles, this book discusses the interplay between money, markets, and societal development. It emphasizes individual choice, entrepreneurship, and decentralized decision-making in fostering economic well-being. The author critiques centralized economic planning and highlights the importance of spontaneous order.

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principles of economics saifedean ammous: Principles of Economics Saifedean Ammous, 2023-06-21 With a growing global readership across 36 languages, Saifedean Ammous' first two books are among the best-selling economics books of the last decade, establishing him as a top educator and communicator of complex economic ideas, and garnering the praise of noted scholars, successful entrepreneurs, elite athletes, and countless readers from all walks of life. After two decades of learning and teaching economics at university level, Ammous realized most economic textbooks confuse more than they illuminate, and most economics university students learn little that is useful. In *Principles of Economics*, his most ambitious and elaborate work, Ammous has written the potent antidote to the modern economics textbook. *Principles of Economics* uses the underappreciated approach of the Austrian school to introduce the principles, methods, and concepts of economics in a readable, engaging, and informative manner valuable to the university student, general reader, and professional economist. Rather than rely on mathematical analysis of aggregates and theoretical models, the book relies on the clear written word. The book begins by explaining the Austrian school method and the concepts of value and time. The second part explores how humans act individually to achieve their ends under scarcity; or in other words, how humans economize. A chapter is dedicated to a detailed overview of each of the concepts of labor, property, capital, technology, and energy, along with vivid examples of their relevance to the reader. The third part examines economizing in the social context, with chapters examining trade, money, the market order, and capitalism, important concepts shrouded by misconceptions. Ammous then presents the Austrian perspective on monetary economics, laying the groundwork through a discussion of time preference, followed by a discussion of banking and credit, and the business cycle and its monetary origins. The final three chapters discuss violence, how a free society defends itself, the failures of monopoly provision of defense, how peaceful exchange in the extended market order is the basis for human civilization, why civilization rests on an irreplaceable foundation of respect for property rights, and humanity's chances of keeping the fruits of civilization as its private property and market foundations are weakened.

principles of economics saifedean ammous: Principles of Economics Saifedean Ammous, 2023-03-23 *Principles of Economics* is a university-level textbook offering a comprehensive, engaging, and easy-to-read overview of the field of economics that is valuable to the university student, the general reader, and the professional economist. Saifedean Ammous' first book, *The Bitcoin Standard*, is an international best-seller that has been translated into 36 languages. The book garnered praise from respected scholars, successful entrepreneurs, professional athletes, and countless readers worldwide for its engaging and enlightening presentation of sophisticated economic and technical concepts, delivered in a style accessible to the general reader. With its sequel, *The Fiat Standard*, Ammous established himself as one of the world's most effective communicators of economic ideas, whose writing resonates with a growing global readership. In *Principles of Economics*, his most ambitious and elaborate work to date, Ammous offers readers a potent antidote to the modern economics textbook. After two decades of learning and teaching economics at university level, Ammous became aware that most economic textbooks confuse more than they illuminate and most university students tasked with reading them learn very little that is useful and actionable. The culmination of four years' work, this book uses the underappreciated approach of the Austrian school of economics to introduce the principles, methods, and concepts of

economics in a readable, engaging, and informative manner. Rather than relying on mathematical analysis of aggregates and arcane theoretical models, the book uses the clear written word to effectively illustrate key economic concepts. The book first presents the Austrian school method and the foundational concepts of value and time. With these foundations laid, the second part of the book explores how humans act individually to achieve their ends under scarcity—in other words, how humans economize. A chapter is dedicated to detailed overviews of labor, property, capital, technology, and energy, and each topic is accompanied by vivid examples explaining its relevance to the reader. The third part of the book examines economizing in the social context, with chapters examining trade, money, the market order, and capitalism—important concepts that are often shrouded by misconceptions in most modern treatments. The fourth part of the book presents the Austrian perspective on monetary economics, laying the groundwork through a detailed discussion of time preference, followed by a discussion of banking and credit, and the business cycle and its monetary origins. The final section of the book explains why respect for property rights in an extended market order is the basis for human civilization, how the market order protects against aggression, and the failures of monopoly provision of defense.

principles of economics saifedean ammous: *The Fiat Standard* Saifedean Ammous, 2021-11-09 In *The Fiat Standard*, world-renowned economist Saifedean Ammous applies his unique analytical lens to the fiat monetary system, explaining it as a feat of engineering and technology just as he did for bitcoin in his global bestseller *The Bitcoin Standard*. This time, Ammous delves into the world's earlier shift from the gold standard to today's system of government-backed fiat money—outlining the fiat standard's purposes and failures; deriving the wider economic, political, and social implications of its use; and examining how bitcoin will affect it over time. With penetrating insight, Ammous analyzes global political currencies by analogy to bitcoin: how they're "mined" whenever government-guaranteed entities create loans, their lack of inherent restraints on inflation, and the rampant government intervention that has resulted in heavy, devastating, and persistent distortions to global markets for food, fuel, science, and education. Through these comparisons, Ammous demonstrates that bitcoin could be our next step forward—providing high salability across space, just like the fiat system, but without the unchecked fiat-denominated debt. Rather than a messy hyperinflationary collapse, the rise of bitcoin could look like a debt jubilee and an orderly upgrade to the world's monetary operating system, revolutionizing global capital and energy markets.

principles of economics saifedean ammous: *Principles of Bitcoin* Vijay Selvam, 2025-05-27 *Principles of Bitcoin* presents a holistic, first-principles-based framework for understanding one of the most misunderstood inventions of our time. By stripping away the hype, jargon, and superficial analysis that often surrounds the crypto industry, this book uncovers the true ingenuity behind Satoshi Nakamoto's creation—and its profound implications for the future of money, governance, and individual freedom. Vijay Selvam analyzes the technology, economics, politics, and philosophy of Bitcoin, making the case that only through this holistic understanding can we gain an appreciation of its true meaning and significance. Readers are invited to consider Bitcoin as a tool for individual empowerment, a catalyst for economic autonomy, and a challenge to traditional monetary systems. Selvam demonstrates why Bitcoin stands alone in the digital asset space as a path-dependent once-in-history invention that cannot be replicated. *Principles of Bitcoin* is an invaluable resource for professionals in the financial world seeking a rigorous and accessible understanding of Bitcoin. Students, curious thinkers, and all who find the technology daunting will also benefit from its clear, foundational approach. Equipping readers with the tools to grasp the many facets of Bitcoin, this book is an ideal guide to exploring its role in shaping a more decentralized, transparent, and equitable future.

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follows is a humorous, insightful, and family-friendly journey into the world of digital currency, financial justice, and Islamic principles. In this book, we explore: □ How Bitcoin is created, what makes it unique and why it has a super-scarce limit. □ How Bitcoin transactions are on a public blockchain and its code is open source. □ Key Islamic perspectives - Riba (usury), Gharar (ambiguity) and Maysir (gambling). □ How Bitcoin aligns with principles like transparency, consent, property rights, justice and excellence. □ Digital wallets, security, and ethical concerns like volatility, energy use and financial inclusion. Many scholars believe Bitcoin can be halal - when used responsibly. This book is your guide to understanding money, technology, and faith in a way that makes sense for your family.

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Per Bylund, 2022-11-21 Como Pensar a Economia de Forma Simples é definitivamente o livro irá explicar os principais conceitos econômicos e desmistificar as mais recorrentes dúvidas e críticas sobre as ciências econômicas, sem se apegar a chavões acadêmicos e terminologias eruditas. Per Bylund conseguiu alcançar o raro limiar entre o acessível e a profundidade para entregar um livro que, de forma competente e abrangente, explica desde as bases filosóficas da economia até a estrutura dos tão assustadores ciclos econômicos. Com uma linguagem simples, o autor passa pelas escolas de ideias, autores e obras fundamentais, além de revisitar os pilares esquecidos dessa ainda negligenciada ciência. Um livro de economia para leigos e entusiastas, estudantes e curiosos, ou seja, para todos.

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Jake Ryan, 2020-12-03 Competition, the drive for efficiency, and continuous improvement ultimately push businesses toward automation and later towards autonomy. If a business can operate without human intervention, it will minimize its operational cost. If Uber can remove the expense of a driver with an autonomous vehicle, it will provide its service cheaper than a competitor who can't. If an artificially intelligent trading company can search, find, and take advantage of some arbitrage opportunity, then it can profit where its competitors cannot. A business that can analyze and execute in real-time without needing to wait for a human to act, is a business that will be able to take advantage of brief inefficiencies from other markets or businesses. This trend following a thesis that is based on 100 years of proven economic theory. Short-wave economic cycles, those 5- to 10-year cycles, are driven by credit but the long-wave economic cycles, those 50- to 60-year cycles, are driven by technological revolution. We've had 5 cycles over the past 200 years with the last wave, the Age of Information & Telecommunications. We've seen evidence that a new cycle has begun. Technological revolutions come by way of a cluster of new innovations. About a decade ago, you started to see AI, robotics and IoT (sensors) delivering on automation. That's been powerful, but not transformational. It does not force businesses to fundamentally change how they do business. The last piece of the puzzle was cryptocurrency because it allows us to process and transfer economic value without human intervention. Soon, there will be a global race to build autonomous operations. Businesses and organizations without autonomous operations simply will not be able to compete with those that do because ... autonomy is the ultimate competitive advantage. Crypto is the mechanism that will accrue value from being the infrastructure for the next digital financial revolution. Crypto Asset Investing lays out a case that we've begun a new technological revolution similar to the Internet Age of the 1990's. Artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, robotics and cryptocurrency are converging to deliver on a new age, what I call the Age of Autonomy. Understanding the transformation that's taken place before anyone else can yield enormous investment opportunity. In this book, you'll learn how and why to invest in crypto assets.

principles of economics saifedean ammous: *The Bitcoin Standard* Saifedean Ammous,

2018-03-23 A comprehensive and authoritative exploration of Bitcoin and its place in monetary history When a pseudonymous programmer introduced a new electronic cash system that's fully peer-to-peer, with no trusted third party to a small online mailing list in 2008, very few people paid attention. Ten years later, and against all odds, this upstart autonomous decentralized software offers an unstoppable and globally accessible hard money alternative to modern central banks. The Bitcoin Standard analyzes the historical context to the rise of Bitcoin, the economic properties that have allowed it to grow quickly, and its likely economic, political, and social implications. While Bitcoin is an invention of the digital age, the problem it purports to solve is as old as human society itself: transferring value across time and space. Author Saifedean Ammous takes the reader on an engaging journey through the history of technologies performing the functions of money, from primitive systems of trading limestones and seashells, to metals, coins, the gold standard, and modern government debt. Exploring what gave these technologies their monetary role, and how most lost it, provides the reader with a good idea of what makes for sound money, and sets the stage for an economic discussion of its consequences for individual and societal future-orientation, capital

accumulation, trade, peace, culture, and art. Compellingly, Ammous shows that it is no coincidence that the loftiest achievements of humanity have come in societies enjoying the benefits of sound monetary regimes, nor is it coincidental that monetary collapse has usually accompanied civilizational collapse. With this background in place, the book moves on to explain the operation of Bitcoin in a functional and intuitive way. Bitcoin is a decentralized, distributed piece of software that converts electricity and processing power into indisputably accurate records, thus allowing its users to utilize the Internet to perform the traditional functions of money without having to rely on, or trust, any authorities or infrastructure in the physical world. Bitcoin is thus best understood as the first successfully implemented form of digital cash and digital hard money. With an automated and perfectly predictable monetary policy, and the ability to perform final settlement of large sums across the world in a matter of minutes, Bitcoin's real competitive edge might just be as a store of value and network for the final settlement of large payments a digital form of gold with a built-in settlement infrastructure. Ammous' firm grasp of the technological possibilities as well as the historical realities of monetary evolution provides for a fascinating exploration of the ramifications of voluntary free market money. As it challenges the most sacred of government monopolies, Bitcoin shifts the pendulum of sovereignty away from governments in favor of individuals, offering us the tantalizing possibility of a world where money is fully extricated from politics and unrestrained by borders. The final chapter of the book explores some of the most common questions surrounding Bitcoin: Is Bitcoin mining a waste of energy? Is Bitcoin for criminals? Who controls Bitcoin, and can they change it if they please? How can Bitcoin be killed? And what to make of all the thousands of Bitcoin knockoffs, and the many supposed applications of Bitcoin's 'block chain technology'? The Bitcoin Standard is the essential resource for a clear understanding of the rise of the Internet's decentralized, apolitical, free-market alternative to national central banks.

principles of economics saifedean ammous: *Natural* Alan Levinovitz, 2020-04-07 Illuminates the far-reaching harms of believing that natural means "good," from misinformation about health choices to justifications for sexism, racism, and flawed economic policies. People love what's natural: it's the best way to eat, the best way to parent, even the best way to act—naturally, just as nature intended. Appeals to the wisdom of nature are among the most powerful arguments in the history of human thought. Yet Nature (with a capital N) and natural goodness are not objective or scientific. In this groundbreaking book, scholar of religion Alan Levinovitz demonstrates that these beliefs are actually religious and highlights the many dangers of substituting simple myths for complicated realities. It may not seem like a problem when it comes to paying a premium for organic food. But what about condemnations of "unnatural" sexual activity? The guilt that attends not having a "natural" birth? Economic deregulation justified by the inherent goodness of "natural" markets? In *Natural*, readers embark on an epic journey, from Peruvian rainforests to the backcountry in Yellowstone Park, from a "natural" bodybuilding competition to a "natural" cancer-curing clinic. The result is an essential new perspective that shatters faith in Nature's goodness and points to a better alternative. We can love nature without worshipping it, and we can work toward a better world with humility and dialogue rather than taboos and zealotry.

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Standard adalah bacaan yang penting.

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