John Kenneth Galbraith

James Ronald Stanfield and Jacqueline Bloom Stanfield

Great Thinkers in Economics Series

This book is a thoroughly engaging depiction of the life and work of a Canadian farm boy who went on to become a jet-setting celebrity. Over a career that spanned three-quarters of a century, John Kenneth Galbraith became the world’s most famous economist, a confidant in presidential politics and an iconic figure in progressive American liberalism. This great Public Intellectual led us all to consider the dangers of an obsolete Conventional Wisdom, the complexities of an Affluent Society, and the implications of the emergence of powerful organizations.

This book demonstrates the relevance of Galbraith’s ideas to the current global economic crisis and beyond to the endemic problems of capitalism. It conveys his inveterate optimism that an evolutionary, pragmatic, and behavioral political economy can guide us to a reformed democratic capitalism that is economically, socially, and ecologically sustainable.

This book is essential reading for all interested in the history of economic thought and political economy.

JAMES RONALD STANFIELD is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Colorado State University.

JACQUELINE STANFIELD is Emerita Professor and Chair of Sociology, University of Northern Colorado.

They have done collaborative research on Galbraith, consumer behavior, gender and family issues, and ecological and social sustainability. The Galbraithian influence is apparent in their work on consumer craft knowledge, the Nurturance Gap, and the Great Capitalist Restoration. From Galbraith’s work, as well that of Karl Marx, Thorstein Veblen, Max Weber, Joseph Schumpeter, Karl Polanyi, Adolph Lowe, and Robert Heilbroner, it is evident that lives and livelihood, or the place of economy in society, has been and remains the central problematic of the capitalist social structure of accumulation, growth, and change. James and Jacqueline continue to work together, when they can spare the time from their grandchildren.

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