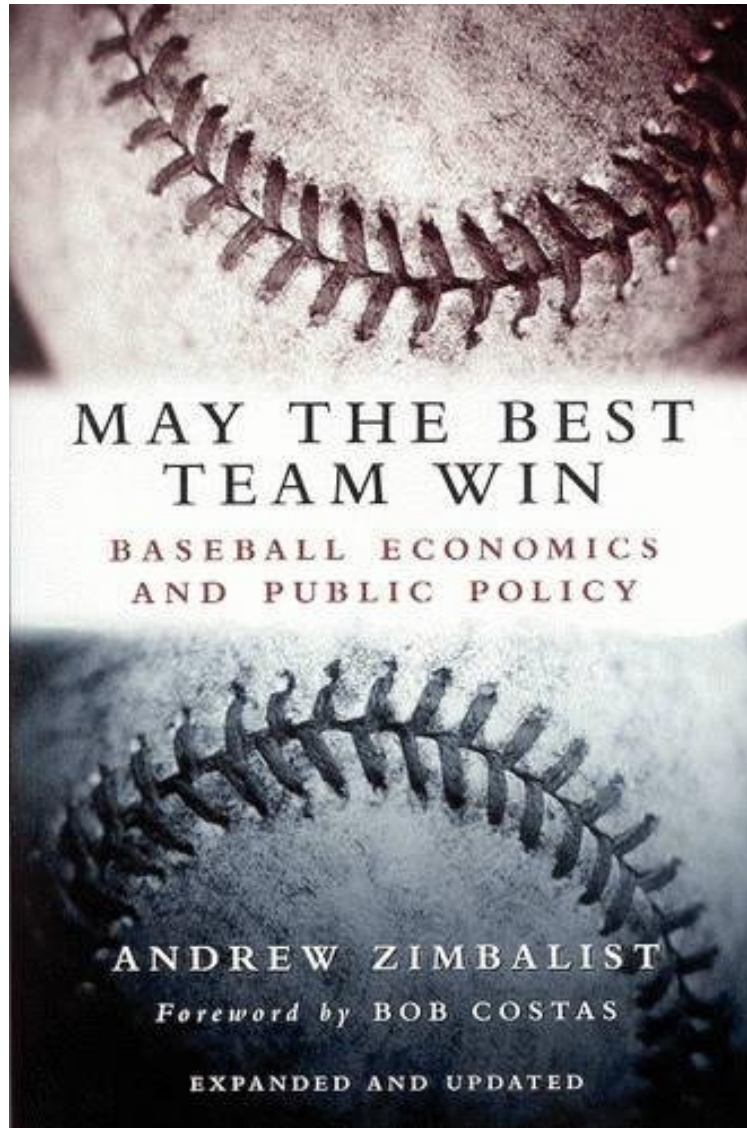


(Free pdf) May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy

May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy

Andrew Zimbalist

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Andrew Zimbalist : May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read and analysis even though somewhat outdatedBy DMGThis book provided a great analysis of the economics and policies of Major League Baseball. The author's points are clear and easy to follow. While the author appers slightly more in favor of the players' perspective than the owners', he makes a point to show both sides of the argument and does not favor particular teams.It was written in

2002 so some of the information is outdated, but it is amazing to look back and see what was important at the time, how little has actually changed since that time, and how the CBA of 2002 has impacted today's game. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Adam Ainbinder I work for a professional sports franchise (but not baseball), and this book really helped me understand the issues surrounding a professional team. This covers some major subjects, such as labor agreements, stadium financing, and broadcasting deals, by using major league baseball as an example. Anyone wanting to further their knowledge of how the economics of a professional sports league should grab this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Reliable Texts great

The business of baseball stands in sharp contrast to the game's wholesome image as America's favorite pastime. Major league baseball is a deeply troubled industry, facing chronic problems that threaten its future: persistent labor tensions, competitive dominance by high-revenue teams, migration of game telecasts to cable, and escalating ticket prices. Amid the threat of contraction, existing franchises are demanding public subsidies for new stadiums, while viable host cities are begging for teams. The game's core base of fans is aging, and MLB is doing precious little to attract a younger audience. According to Andrew Zimbalist, these problems have a common cause: monopoly. Since 1922 MLB has benefited from a presumed exemption from the nation's antitrust laws. It is the only top-level professional baseball league in the country, and each of its teams is assigned an exclusive territory. Monopolies have market power, which they use to derive higher returns, misallocate resources, and take advantage of consumers. Major league baseball is no exception. In *May the Best Team Win*, Zimbalist provides a critical analysis of the baseball industry, focusing on the abuses and inefficiencies that have plagued the game since the 1990s, when franchise owners appointed their colleague Bud Selig as MLB's independent commissioner.

From Publishers Weekly Zimbalist, professor of economics at Smith College, is arguably the leading authority on sports economics in the country. His *Baseball and Billions* (1992) was one of the first books to take an educated look at the business of baseball, and since the release of that book, Zimbalist has spent thousands of hours researching and writing about the industry. His conclusion in his latest work, that baseball is in trouble, is not a new idea, but the reasons behind baseball's problems and Zimbalist's solutions combine to create an absorbing, provocative discussion. Zimbalist is no friend of baseball owners or baseball commissioner Bud Selig, and he devotes much space to tearing down arguments about the poor financial health of most teams and the need for cities to subsidize teams by paying for new stadiums. Expansion, not contraction, for example, would help spread out talent. The root cause of baseball's problems, Zimbalist argues, is its monopoly, and his most radical idea is for Congress to lift baseball's antitrust exemption and to force divestiture into two competitive leagues. But failing that, Zimbalist has a number of suggestions to improve the status of the game, including attracting younger fans by starting some World Series games at an earlier time; lowering ticket prices; and creating an owner/player partnership to study baseball's problems. At the very least, this volume provides baseball fans with enough material to allow them to engage in one of their favorite pursuits—arguing over what should be done to save the national pastime. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. "... argues Andrew Zimbalist, a professor... and author of 'May the Best Team Win.'" Michael K. Ozanian with Cecily J. Fluke, *Forbes*, 4/28/2003 "Instead of drinking beer and moaning, pick up a copy of Andrew Zimbalist's 'May the Best Team Win.' Zimbalist is the author of 'Baseball and Billions,' one of the most impressive books on the subject, trumped, perhaps, only by this one.... 'May the Best Team Win' is one that the critical fan needs in their arsenal." *Mudville Magazine*, 4/28/2003 "Andrew Zimbalist writes with obvious love, but deep concern for our national pastime." Chris Berman, *ESPN*, 2/4/2003 "An absorbing, provocative discussion." *Publishers Weekly*, 2/24/2003 "Follows up his original tome by documenting perhaps the wildest set of chapters in MLB history. In just the past two years, commissioner Bud Selig and the owners have attempted and failed to wipe out two teams, narrowly averted a labor stoppage with the players, engineered a bizarre ownership swap involving the Boston, Florida and Montreal franchises, stumbled through a high-profile congressional tongue-lashing, and were beaten in court by a stadium commission from Minnesota." Eric Fisher, *Washington Times* "Major league baseball has put a stranglehold on real competitive balance, and Zimbalist claims that the near-monopoly status is a detriment to any impulse for improvement. His prescriptions offer harsh but needed medicine." *Library Journal* "Zimbalist offers a whirlwind tour of baseball chicanery.... Concise and coherent.... Anyone who holds an opinion on the state of the game, or fears its demise, owes it to him- or herself to take Professor Zimbalist's 224-page class." Jon Morgan, *Baltimore Sun*, 3/23/2003 "I highly recommend Andrew Zimbalist's new book, 'May the Best Team Win.' If you read this book... you'll know everything about the ugly side of baseball that you need to know." Rob Neyer, *ESPN.com*, 4/1/2003 "Exhilarating.... Combines an academic's precision with a fan's passion." Allen Barra, *Newhouse Newspapers* "In the most damning chapter in the book, Zimbalist outlines a complex but convincing deconstruction of Selig's assertion that MLB lost \$519 million in 2001... As Paul Beeston, MLB's chief operating officer said, 'Under generally accepted accounting principles, I can turn a \$4 million profit into a \$2 million loss and I can get every national accounting firm to agree with me.'" Sean Callahan, *GeezerJock Media*, *Washington Post Book World*, 5/18/2003 "Zimbalist demolished Commission Bud Selig's claim made before Congress that baseball's 30 teams lost

\$519 million in 2001....A compelling critique." Glenn C. Altschuler, Cornell University, Barron's, 6/2/2003"[Zimbalist] has other arrows in his quiver, including a worldwide player draft with picks in reverse order or league standings, elimination of some of the tax shelters that owners now enjoy and tighter governmental oversight over team movement and labor relations." Lawrence S. Ritter, New York University, New York Times, 5/25/2003"Especially revealing." The Boston Globe"May the Best Team Win' combines the precision of an academic with the passion of a fan.... you have no one to blame but yourselves if you don't get 'May the Best Team Win', read it and heed it." Allen Barra, St. Petersburg Times (Florida), 4/6/2003"My daydream... is that somehow every sports talk show host and every caller to such a show might mysteriously find himself or herself reading this illuminating book. That development would decrease the dumbness quotient of discussions between the former and the latter by about 99%." Bill Littlefield, "Only A Game" (WBUR), 4/19/2003"Major league baseball has put a stranglehold on real competitive balance, and Zimbalist claims that the near-monopoly status is a detriment to any impulse for improvement. His prescriptions offer harsh but needed medicine." Library Journal, 5/1/2003"Andrew Zimbalist's 'May the Best Team Win' is a stark reminder that many of the issues that divided baseball's owners and players during the contentious 2002 collective bargaining negotiations have not been fully resolved." Daniel C. Glazer", Shearman and Sterling sports group, New York Law Journal, 5/29/2003"The real case for reforming the sport is to reinstate that very American balance, rescuing the sport from a system, which, as it stands, is neither competitive nor fair." The Economist, 5/31/2003"[Zimbalist] is correct in identifying MLB's primary problem -- competitive imbalance." Andrew M. Alexander, co-editor of Intellectual Conservative, Intellectual Conservative.com, 3/3/2004"The author of one of the most significant works on baseball economics, 'Baseball and Billions,' Zimbalist considers baseball's current state of economic health.... With amazing precision, Zimbalist turns Selig's claims of \$519 million in book losses for the 2001 season... into an actual operating profit." Geoff Wilson, Baseball Magazine, 4/20/2003"These days a typical owner will rake in big money, claim he's nearly broke and then threatened to move unless his host city subsidizes a new stadium at taxpayer expense. If you think this is an exaggeration, read Zimbalist's brilliantly researched study on the economics of the game." Charles Hirshberg, Sports Illustrated, 5/26/2003"Zimbalist's analysis is easily accessible, his data quite interesting and his judgments evenhanded almost to a fault." Washington Post, 4/6/2003"One of the great strengths of May the Best Team Win is the way in which Zimbalist clearly unravels the workings of various markets labour, product, broadcasting and stadiums and how they combine to make up the industry that is baseball. He provides a detailed analysis of collective bargaining in baseball.... Provides a very readable account of major issues associated with the recent operation of American baseball. It systematically examines various peculiarities and nuances of the operation of this legal cartel. Its major contribution lies in its analyses of the impact of recent collective bargaining deals, the various revenue sharing mechanisms they contain to enhance competitive balance and the moving feast that is broadcasting rights.... Highly recommended for all those interested in the economics of professional team sports and the operation of cartels." Braham Dabscheck, Economic Record, 6/1/2004"Zimbalist has written a compelling, accessible introduction to the economic issues surrounding the current state of major league baseball." D. A. Coffin, Indiana University Northwest, Choice, 1/1/2004"Zimbalist writes a thorough but concise analysis of the economic health of MLB.... One of the strengths of May the Best Team Win is the way the book uncovers the hidden disincentives that are hurting the game." Kevin Skelly, Bureau of Labor Statistics, New York, Issues in Labor Statistics"The overriding theme of the book is that MLB is an unregulated monopoly and as a consequence the industry suffers from inefficiency, exploits consumers, manipulates public policy and suffers from a competitive imbalance that threatens the future of the game.... A well-crafted book that gives a good view of the inner workings of MLB and its owner-barons and provides an interesting case study of cartel behavior. The intended audience is clearly broader than that of academic sports economists.... Zimbalist succeeds in making the material engaging for both economists working in this field and for non-specialists interested in the economics of baseball." Leo H. Kahane, Mount Holyoke College and California State University, Hayward, Journal of Economic Literature, 6/1/2004"An interesting, insightful, and revealing examination of the business of baseball a book that will shave the game to its roots. It will become the ultimate book on the economics of professional sports. You will find it just as riveting as I did." Pat Williams, senior vice president, Orlando Magic, 2/1/2003"The business of sports is more competitive than the games on the field because the business is conducted under the laws of commerce, not the rules of sport. In this excellent book, Andrew Zimbalist describes the action in the business of baseball like it was the seventh game of the World Series which it is." Clark C. Griffith, Chairman, Sports Law Division, American Bar Association Forum on Entertainment and Sports Law, 2/1/2003"A great book just the latest indication of why I tell my students at Harvard that Andrew Zimbalist is the top sports economist in the country." Paul Weiler, Friendly Professor of Law and chair, Sports and Entertainment Law Program, 2/1/2003About the Author Andrew Zimbalist is Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics at Smith College. He has published fifteen books and has consulted for players associations, governmental bodies, cities, owners, corporations, and international development organizations. His books include May the Best Team Win: Baseball Economics and Public Policy (Brookings, 2003) and In the Best Interests of Baseball? The Revolutionary Reign of Bud Selig (Wiley, 2006). Bob Costas, a 19-time Emmy Award

winner, and television's most honored studio host, is the host of NBC's "Football Night in America" studio show.