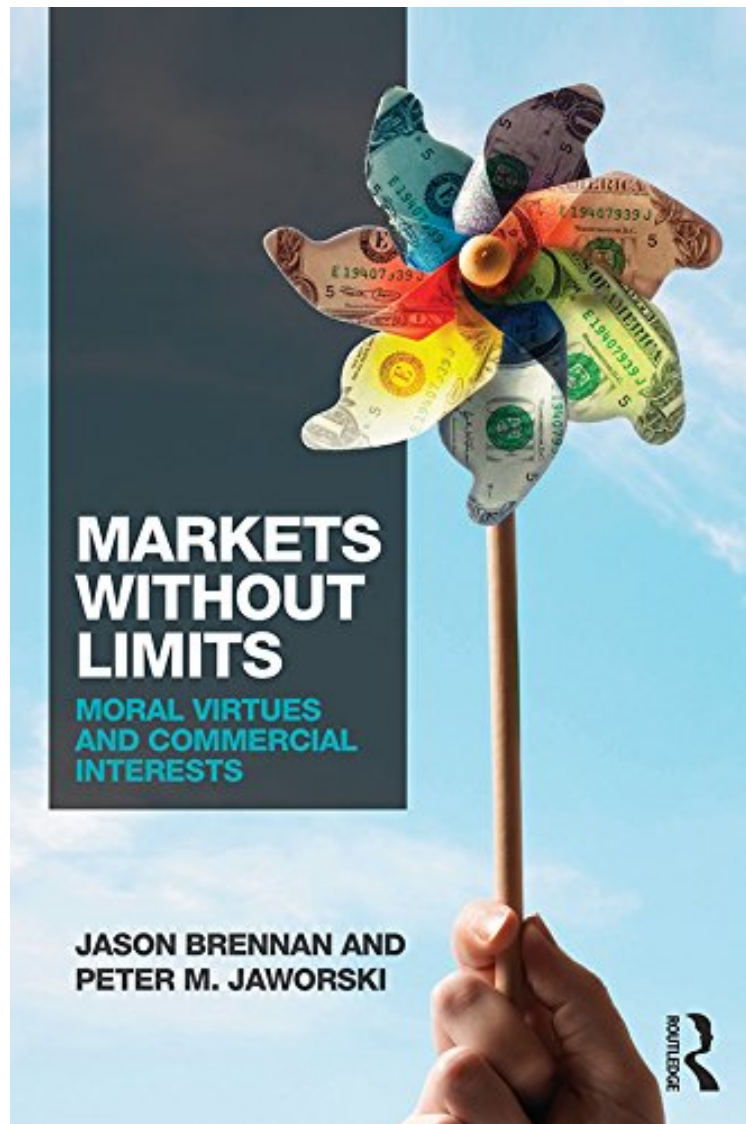


# Markets without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests

Jason F. Brennan, Peter Jaworski

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**Jason F. Brennan, Peter Jaworski : Markets without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Markets without Limits: Moral Virtues and Commercial Interests:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Markets Without Limits By Walker Wright Brennan and Jaworski have written a remarkably rigorous book defending the thesis "If you may do it for free, you may do it for money." In it, they attack the underlying revulsion and biases against markets held by critics. The authors clarify the debate (hint: it's not about business ethics and it's not about regulation), rooting out fallacies and red herrings to get down to the actual claims of anti-commodification critics. Yet, what makes the book both powerful and useful is the clear, concise,

and fair manner in which they describe their opponents' arguments. Multiple angles are addressed and core critical arguments are broken down, making the authors' logic and position all the more compelling and--after the irrelevant debris mentioned above is cleared away--somewhat obvious. Bolstering the authors' arguments is an immense amount of relevant social science. Whenever empirical claims are made (by either Brennan and Jaworski or market critics), evidence from studies in psychology, sociology, economics, and anthropology is presented and explained. Finally, the book provides a possible way in which to influence both liberals and conservatives to embrace policies that lead to more economic freedom. Should be read by both friends and foes of the market. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. like most I know precious little of academic philosophy By Brendan Dooley Admittedly, like most I know precious little of academic philosophy. Most of the oeuvre is written in stilted language hellbent on purposeful obfuscation, much like this sentence! What will prove to be an enduring virtue of the work is that it dispenses with academic verbiage and pretense. The work is written in a plainspoken tone, while managing not to not speak down the reader. In the long view the accessible writing style and the provocative claims made (and backed) will resonate with future generation of students. The book essentially argues that if one removes from markets items that should be owned by no one, like nuclear weaponry, the objections to the sale of any given item--if it can be gifted away--ought to be eligible for purchase. The chapter on "semiotic" objections hammers this argument home. The book does not shrink from addressing a handful of the most resolute arguments against markets. The authors name names and rebut criticisms. What adds immensely to the readability factor is the use of clarifying real world examples throughout. The social construction of markets in helping us determine the meaning of particular goods--sales of organs or adoption rights--is relevant to sociological discourse. Although it will earn a chilly reception there. Nevertheless, the authors' deft use of empirical evidence to overturn "sacred truths" captures the excitement that grows with a data driven philosophy. The examples they chose and various markets defended (voting markets!) ought to attract a well deserved reaction in the intellectual market. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very highly recommended, especially to those with an anti-commodification bias (estimated ... By Customer I initially found it a bit too extreme in being too pro-market, but ended up agreeing with most of its very well argued points. Very highly recommended, especially to those with an anti-commodification bias (estimated to affect 99% of people to some degree, myself included ). Yew-Kwang Ng, Winsemius Professor in Economics, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

May you sell your vote? May you sell your kidney? May gay men pay surrogates to bear them children? May spouses pay each other to watch the kids, do the dishes, or have sex? Should we allow the rich to genetically engineer gifted, beautiful children? Should we allow betting markets on terrorist attacks and natural disasters? Most people shudder at the thought. To put some goods and services for sale offends human dignity. If everything is commodified, then nothing is sacred. The market corrodes our character. Or so most people say. In *Markets without Limits*, Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski give markets a fair hearing. The market does not introduce wrongness where there was not any previously. Thus, the authors claim, the question of what rightfully may be bought and sold has a simple answer: if you may do it for free, you may do it for money. Contrary to the conservative consensus, they claim there are no inherent limits to what can be bought and sold, but only restrictions on how we buy and sell.

"...as informed and informative as it is thoughtful and thought-provoking. An inherently absorbing and innately fascinating read from beginning to end..." - Midwest Book "Brennan and Jaworski make an effort to unravel the often unstructured and emotional objections of anti-commodification theorists in order to make them accessible for a rational discussion. They convincingly push forward the point that in many respects opponents of markets simply lack the empirical evidence for the claims they are making... Brennan and Jaworski's writing is pleasantly clear and their humor makes the book an entertaining read."