

Books that are noteworthy

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Garvey, John H., "The Virtues" 2022. ISBN 9780813236223. Catholic University Press Faculty Books. 143p.

John H. Garvey served as the 15th President of the Catholic University of America (CUA) and the third lay president of the CUA. While serving as The CUA President (and even earlier, as a Dean at Boston College) Mr. Garvey always made a point of focusing on virtues as the core, or crux of his every speech. He also taught the subject for a small group of distinguished students. As he retired, Garvey left the book on the virtues as the final gift to students and the university. During his decade-plus leadership he undertook many much needed and important reforms. He restructured the Board of Trustees from primarily clergy to more lay-led leadership, upgraded and improved athletic fields, residence halls, counselling services, and infrastructure, among others. Garvey made great contribution to more effective, i.e., significantly higher fund raising results. During his tenure it reached some 400 million USD. Still, a bit lower than he himself set out to achieve. He also managed higher student retention, by some 10 percent.

Reflecting on recent two years' Covid19 pandemic he led by example: reduced his salary by 20 percent, and followed voluntarily by number of university staff and instructors. That move had helped stave off layoffs, many employees took a cut so others could keep their jobs. That alone is an excellent example of solidarity at work – essential component of Christian social teaching.

The following presents some extracts, parts of J. Garvey book review, (entire review can be found) at the CUA website www.cua.edu.

"Garvey's new book, "The Virtues," makes the case for the importance of moral formation in the intellectual life of colleges and universities. "The Virtues" is available from CUA Press and Amazon. Though President Garvey treats each virtue individually, a common thread unites his reflections. "The intellectual life depends on the moral life," Garvey writes. "Without virtue we cannot sustain the practices necessary for advanced learning. In fact, without virtue, it's hard to see what the purpose of the university is. Learning begins with love (for the truth). If we don't have that, it's hard to know why we would bother with education at all."

Following Catholic tradition, "The Virtues" places the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love at the center of the moral life, and the cardinal virtues – justice, temperance, fortitude, and prudence – with them. Alongside these major virtues, Garvey considers a collection of "little virtues," habits like humility, modesty, and gentleness that assist and accompany us in small but important ways on the path to goodness. In his reflection on docility Garvey laments the trend in academia toward skepticism and deconstruction, and encourages the quality of being "teachable." He continues, "We all have a lot to learn. Don't be such a

skeptic that you set to one side the accumulated wisdom of the world. Just be careful in choosing your teachers." Throughout his more than 40 years in academia, Garvey has reflected on the relationship between intellectual and moral formation, especially in Catholic higher education. For 12 years as the President of The Catholic University of America, he made the cultivation of moral virtue a central theme on campus, highlighting its significance across all aspects of University culture, from University policy to campus architecture. "The Virtues" is a culmination of this work and invites its readers, especially students, to appreciate that the cultivation of virtue is indispensable to success, academic or otherwise, and more importantly, essential to their ultimate aim, a life well lived." And furthermore:

"During his presidency, President Garvey frequently urged students to strive to lead virtuous lives. CUA Press is delighted to publish his book 'The Virtues,' which distills his thoughts and imparts his wisdom to readers of all ages, cultures, backgrounds, and generations," said Trevor Lipscombe, director of Catholic University of America Press. "Inside St. Paul's Cathedral in London is an inscription, in Latin, 'If you seek his monument, look around you' -- a reference to its architect, Sir Christopher Wren. If you seek to find President Garvey's legacy, it is contained within the pages of his book."

Andreas Widmer, "The Art of Principled Entrepreneurship" 2022, Matt Holt, 248p.

Andreas Widmer, former Swiss Guard in Vatican credits John Paul 2 for changing his life and finding his own, his true business vocation: spreading the "gospel of work" – and not only in America. Recently, Andreas gave an interview to EWTN station, one of the first questions dealt by a host, Ray Arroyo was: Is it possible in today's business world to be both profitable and virtuous? Andreas Widmer, who's second book is gaining quite a stir and popularity, responded: We have a distorted view and misconceptions about the world of business. For many people, business is a war, a zero-sum, with some winners and many losers. A world where dog-eat-dog, where in order to win you must beat your competition. However, in his view, this does not have to be the case. Andreas emphasizes the gospel of work (a course he designed and teaches at the CUA) that work is more like an Olympic sport. A game we learn to play, a game that requires a mastery of fair and disciplined behavior. The author spends much time and efforts to prove that authentically ethical and principled (responsible) behavior can lead to better and greater common good. Then, higher profits also follow, as an applause for great job done well, and sustainable life on our planet might be secured. The good news is that our Creator created us so that we in turn will too, create greater things. However not all of us have learned that: 'man is created to work as a bird – to fly.' So, work is

our path, our journey to sanctity, to earn much greater reward: that of life of eternity.

In his book, the author argues that we still can live the personal version of American (or European, or Chinese, et.al) dream. We may find the true fulfilment coming from better, closer cooperation and collaboration between employers, employees, producers and consumers. Implicit in his argument is the fact that the big business, big corporations might not consider employees as a cost, not as a profit centers but part of the game plan, collaborating in and for a fair play.

Paying employees' salaries, health insurance, family expenses adds to the overall cost of doing business.

Sharing an interesting example of his wine-making friend and mentor, Art Ciocca, the author shows how a principled entrepreneur can have it all: both financial success and ethically run and people-centered business. There will be dragons, there might be challenges and in the end it all works out for the best.

Andreas shares his five principles, or pillars of entrepreneurship to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset in driving "success through virtue", excellence, and best possible service:

1. The economy exists for people, not people for the economy.
2. To work is to create; to create is to be human.
3. Culture eats strategy for breakfast.
4. Principled entrepreneurs always seek to create win-win solutions.
5. Always think like an entrepreneur.

At the end of each chapter there are series of helpful questions, statements that provoke a reader to reflection. The author take on the five specific principles is quite ingenious. These principles seem to be both timeless as well as almost universally desirable principles. Stephen Covey in his highly acclaimed book: "Principle Centered Leadership" stated that when the values of the follower and leader overlap, then we have the most desirable, or best of two worlds. In other words we reach the so called win-win situation. I especially appreciated the last – fifth pillar: always think like an entrepreneur. It is the entrepreneur who is primarily a creator, and not only a harvester. This uniquely human quality of creating successful products, services, or new inventions, and solutions makes perhaps one of the most powerful arguments for a market economy. It is also an excellent argument for the superiority of capitalism over any other alternative, so desperately challenged by growing number of "would be", or "want to be" socialists in the US and other parts of the world.

The author acknowledges that the free market competition does create winners and losers (due to too many or too few oligopolies?), in terms of companies, it "ideally creates only winners in terms of us, individuals." (top of p.14). He says that firms are not the ultimate goal of the economy. Do these huge corporations not do exercise enormous power over individuals, families and even social groups? That's a fact, which is very hard to overlook. Similarly, he argues that Marx adversarial "capital vs labor" struggle is rather static mischaracterization than a proper argument for a real view

of the world. The author here seems to be idealistically missing the pivotal point here. As he states: "(I)t is not either/or, but both/end! The two "sides" need each other. In terms of labor and capital, history has shown that they can and should seek win-win solutions." I think the real point of Marx argument is not complementarity of labor and capital. Rather, as Marx maintained, it is clearly adversarial position. Position that leads to social alienation, where labor is (unduly) misappropriated, exploited and mistreated. With different goals, an owner of capital seeks the highest possible profit (or rent), while worker, or laborer seeks highest possible wages – just to even simply exist, with dignity.

So much for complementarity relationship of capital and labor. So apart from this idealistic view on this complementary relationship, there are lots of good stories, wise admonitions and constructive examples that make the book very useful read.

Luke Burgis, who works closely with Widmer, highly recommends this book to everyone. Burgis wrote, this book "reads as if it were written as an act of service and great love, and indeed it becomes clear on the first pages that it was—Widmer journeyed with a dying man, the billionaire Art Ciocca, through his final two years to write this excellent book, drawing on the ideas of a man at the end of his life who had spent most of it reflecting on the meaning of good work and the creation of enduring value. The lessons imparted in this book are timeless, and Widmer writes well and weaves together a story that more people should know, while also giving practical advice for building a person-centered company at the same time."

The book might be considered as a long case study on the "Art of making wine", with Art Ciocca as a key actor, whose charisma attracted people to "performance culture". If taken as an idealistic story of market economy where wolf co-exists with a lamb, we could imagine a world of creating a culture free from company politics and selfish interests. It would create a system where companies focus on their core concerns: doing well by doing good. That however, more likely might happen in cases of NGOs, or Good Will Enterprises - rather than majority of for-profit firms, or businesses.

On the whole, Andreas wrote an interesting, though provoking and challenging book. The author explains some acronyms, with an interesting take of double meaning, i.e., CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility, with his new take: Create, Support, Reward. He does not however explain some other acronyms, which even an American reader might not always be able to decipher, such as: DMV (Department of Motor and Vehicles, or District, Maryland and Virginia); or IPO (for Initial Public Offering), or USSR, (for Soviet Union). Using simple, short and sensible stories, with colloquial language makes reading this book entertaining, engaging, educational and fun. In spite of some repetition of ideas, sentences, examples the book makes for an excellent reading about modern art of principled entrepreneurship.

Arnaldo Madureira , Salazar E A II Guerra Mundial: O difícil equilíbrio do Estado Novo entre os Aliados e os nazis.

Book Review by Marc Castillo

This book is unique as it parlays and discusses the finites of one of the most enigmatic figures in Portuguese history and of European history of the 20th century during the century's most prolific struggle. The fact that this book exists and research was done on it is a notable achievement. However, there is quite a bit of emphasis on what happened to the Portuguese populace and the day to day struggles of Portuguese citizens rather than the political acrobatics Antonio Oliveira de Salazar had to do in order to maintain Portuguese neutrality. The detail of the book highlights that it was well researched.

The author goes through all the major points of Portuguese socio-history regarding that era. Mr. Madureira orderly goes through all the years in the book with a permanent backdrop of how the Second World War affected the Portuguese populace—and that was the most remarkable part of this work, the author did a superb job of highlighting the difficulties that the population went through.. He also highlights the uniqueness of Lisbon briefly transforming itself into a cosmopolitan city during the war due to the nation's neutrality.

Discussion about the Portuguese colonies was well done. The author documented the turmoil the Portuguese government went through in order to preserve their autonomy over

the strategically important Azores as well as how Portugal's "Ultramar" colonies fared through the war and their ties with the Metropole. The balancing act that Portugal had to play inside its alliance with Great Britain was a dominant topic in this book as it should be. Of particular interest was maintaining the Anglo-Luso alliance but not letting on to Germany that Portugal was being partial to the UK. Exports to Germany were also discussed, which included the much sought after tungsten.

Other parts of this book that were highlighted was how the Portuguese press was heavily censored through a cabinet level position and how a police unit was created to monitor foreigners in the country. The Portuguese Populace's strife when it came to rationing was also highlighted. Portuguese preparations for a possible axis invasion were briefly detailed but the true nexus of this book was the everyday life of the Portuguese citizenry in the war and how they managed through the crisis.

Of the downsides regarding the book, there is not a clear acronym database nor is there enough detail regarding the everyday machinations that Salazar had to do to maintain neutrality. More detail could be written about the day to day trials that Salazar went through, the book lacks an intimate perspective of Salazar during this time. Whilst the book does not live up to the first word in its title; it is nevertheless well written, well researched and should be read by anyone that has an interest in Portuguese history.