

The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works--and Howlt's Transforming the American Economy

By Charles Fishman



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Wal-Mart isn't just the world's biggest company, it is probably the world's most written-about. But no book until this one has managed to penetrate its wall of silence or go beyond the usual polemics to analyze its actual effects on its customers, workers, and suppliers. Drawing on unprecedented interviews with former Wal-Mart executives and a wealth of staggering data (e.g., Americans spend \$36 million an hour at Wal-Mart stores, and in 2004 its growth alone was bigger than the total revenue of 469 of the Fortune 500), *The Wal-Mart Effect* is an intimate look at a business that is dramatically reshaping our lives.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Fishman shops at Wal-Mart and has obvious affection for its price-cutting, hard-nosed ethos. He also understands that the story of Wal-Mart is really the story of the transformation of the American economy over the past 20 years. He's careful to present the consumer benefits of Wal-Mart's staggering growth and to place Wal-Mart in the larger context of globalization and the rise of mega-corporations. But he also presents the case against Wal-Mart in arresting detail, and his carefully balanced approach only makes the downside of Wal-Mart's market dominance more vivid. Through interviews with former Wal-Mart insiders and current suppliers, Fishman puts readers inside the company's penny-pinching mindset and shows how Wal-Mart's mania to reduce prices has driven suppliers into bankruptcy and sent factory jobs overseas. He surveys the research on Wal-Mart's effects on local retailers, details the environmental impact of its farm-raised salmon and exposes the abuse of workers in a supplier's Bangladesh factory. In Fishman's view, the "Wal-Mart effect" is double-edged: consumers benefit from lower prices, even if they don't shop at Wal-Mart, but Wal-Mart has the power of life and death over its suppliers. Wal-Mart, he suggests, is too big to be subject to market forces or traditional rules. In the end, Fishman sees Wal-Mart as neither good nor evil, but simply a fact of modern life that can barely be comprehended, let alone controlled.

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From **Booklist**

The "Wal-Mart effect" has become a common phrase in the vocabulary of economists and includes a broad range of effects, such as forcing local competitors out of business, driving down wages, and keeping inflation low and productivity high. On a global scale, Wal-Mart's relentless commitment to "everyday low prices" has had a massive impact on the trend toward importing from countries like China and the resultant loss of manufacturing jobs here. Because of its strict policy on secrecy, surprisingly little is known about the inside workings of the largest corporation ever in the U.S and now the world. Although much has been written before on the legendary story of Sam Walton, Fishman finally takes us inside the carefully guarded workings of the "Wal-Mart ecosystem," where management surrender their lives and families, working 12 hours a day, six days a week, in a near-holy quest toward the never-ending goal of lower prices. He brings to light the serious repercussions that are occurring as consumers and suppliers have become locked in an addiction to massive sales of cheaper and cheaper goods. *David Siegfried*

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Review

The best Wal-Mart expose yet . . . as measured by depth and breadth of research, writing style, and evenhanded treatment. (*The Denver Post*)

Highly readable, incisive, precise, and even elegant. (San Francisco Chronicle)

The Wal-Mart Effect is an interesting look at how big corporations affect our planet in positive and negative ways. The strength . . . is in the stories about the lives that Wal-Mart has touched, set against the backdrop of an astounding array of data. (USA Today)

Insightful. (BusinessWeek)

The Wal-Mart Effect saunters through the influential economic 'ecosystem' that the discount chain represents

with clarity, compelling nuance, and refreshing objectivity. (The Christian Science Monitor)

A must-read if one is even to begin understanding the global dominance of Wal-Mart. (*The Washington Post*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dennis Byrd:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information presently can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works--and HowIt's Transforming the American Economy as your daily resource information.

Donald Cortes:

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works--and HowIt's Transforming the American Economy.

Joshua Castillo:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a guide. The book The Wal-Mart Effect: How the World's Most Powerful Company Really Works--and HowIt's Transforming the American Economy it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

Virginia Hause:

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