

A Libertarian odyssey?

Heroic Misadventures is a lively how-to book that shows how an individual applying libertarian principles can repeatedly stand up to the ever-meddling bureaucrats and win, in contrast to the “can’t fight city hall” conventional wisdom.

Using real life examples the author shows how most bureaucracies are nothing but ‘impediments’, to productive individuals. He colourfully describes the bureaucrats as ‘barnacles on the backside of progress’.

However, this book is not a rancorous complaint, but a compelling series of stories about a libertarian Odyssey that has taken Ron from wide open expanses of inland Australia to the wise counsel of libertarian luminaries such as, Leonard E Read, the founder of the Foundation for Economic Education in New York (see pages 8 – 11), Murray Rothbard, John Hospers and F.A. Hayek.

The world has battalions of self-described libertarians who espouse the challenges and benefits of individual liberty and responsibility, but the author of *Heroic Misadventures* has arm-wrestled the bureaucrats and repeatedly beaten them — to the extent that he has earned their respect and they have subsequently sought his advice.

This book is a tonic to those who feel stifled by today’s ‘tax and regulate’ environment and Manners quotes F.A. Hayek who said, “What must be understood are the crippling effects of excessive government regulation and the vital but fragile link between economic freedom and personal liberty.”

Manners urges that we should, “Survive and prosper. This is most important as a healthy dog can always tolerate a few fleas. Every man and woman in society has one big duty. This is, to take care of his or her own self. This is a social duty. Fortunately, the duty of making the most of one’s self individuality is not a separate thing from the duty of filling one’s place in society, but the two are one, and the latter is accomplished when the former is done.”

Traditional bulwarks of liberty that Manners has tapped, particularly the courts are increasingly threatened by myriads of tribunals and ‘kangaroo courts’ like ASIC, the AAT or the ACCC and extra judicial enforcement powers of government departments. This undermines respect for law and order, and in commerce stifles new competitors in the marketplace.

The Global Financial Crisis is also covered in some detail and is described by Manners as, “The U.S. Financial Crisis that they successfully exported to the rest of the world.”

Manners concludes that despite the financial damage inflicted by the Wizards of Wall Street, responding to the perverse incentives from Washington, there has been insufficient anger generated to bring about any change.

The only thing that has changed so far is that the taxpayers everywhere are now poorer and future generations will shoulder debts that will colour their memories of the current crop of political incumbents.

This work is a practical, lively and entertaining tour of the past ‘Four Decades – Full Circle’. The sub title of the book has a melancholy conclusion that, after four decades the sometimes successful struggle to constrain excesses of government, must now be fought again. Yet for a new generation of libertarians it shines a light for our path forward and shows that the struggle is not futile and can be personally rewarding.

Order book from:- www.HeroicMisadventures.com

W.J. Stacey,
Chairman,
Lion Rock Institute
Hong Kong