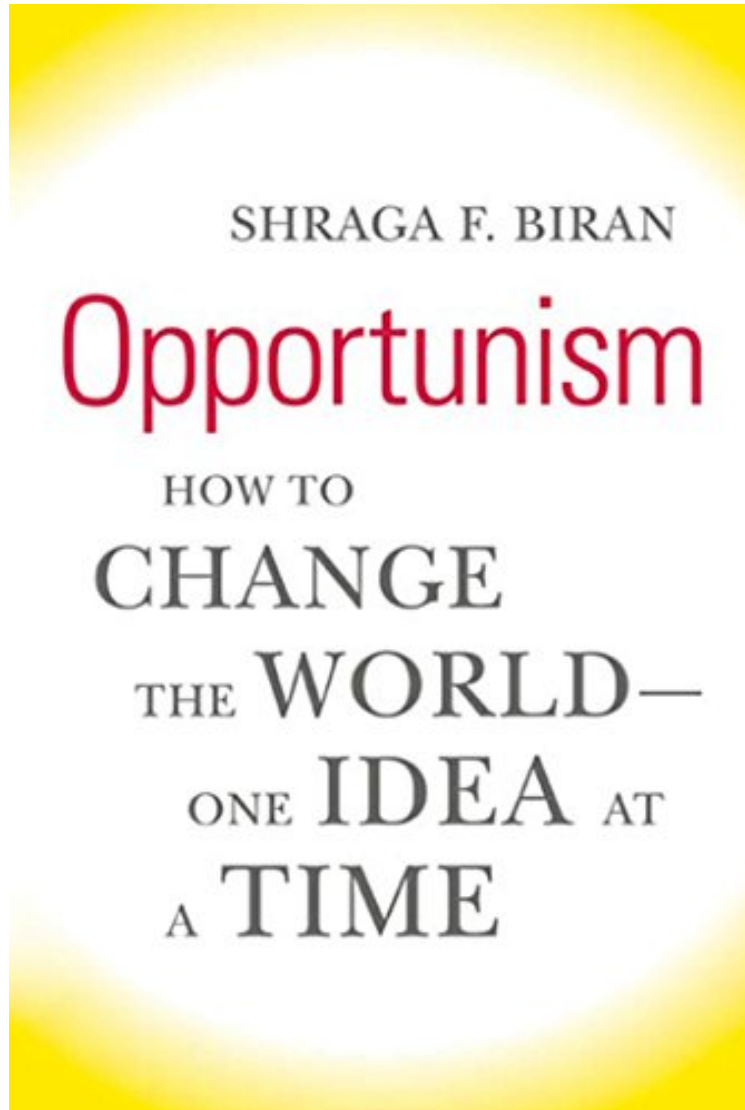


[Download] Opportunism: How to Change the World--One Idea at a Time

## Opportunism: How to Change the World--One Idea at a Time

*Shraga F. Biran*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*



#2922200 in eBooks 2011-01-18 2011-01-18 File Name: B00486UAXE | File size: 19.Mb

**Shraga F. Biran : Opportunism: How to Change the World--One Idea at a Time** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Opportunism: How to Change the World--One Idea at a Time:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Noble Intent but Unworkable PlanBy bronx book nerdI have always wondered what the next economic system will be. People living in the Stone Age could not have imagined the feudal system; those living in the feudal system could not have imagined industrialization or capitalism. What will be the next evolution of economic relationships? Shraga Biran I think begins to get at this but in the end falls short.He envisions a world were ideas can be claimed as property in their incipient state, that is, before they are transformed

into a tangible product or service. This, he argues, will rightly provide the economic benefit to those who came up with the idea, rather than to those who have the deep pockets to fund them. There is something very noble and right about this - why should only those who have money or access to it be the ones to profit from a new idea? On the other hand, how would this be carried out in any pragmatic fashion? For example, many people come up with the same idea. I have witnessed this with a suggestion box program that I recently administered. Of the 15 people who suggested the same idea, which one should get the rights to it? Also, sometimes ideas are not identical but similar. Which one of these is the one that should "count"? Finally, as when the internet became popular, and there were major land grabs for URL's, why wouldn't one person or company simply generate ideas so that they can be registered and claimed, then let the deep pockets come to them to purchase them? Again, the notion is noble, but unworkable. I did appreciate, however, the author's exposition of how the distribution of wealth continues to get more skewed, and how this continued disparity needs to be addressed in some way. I was also impressed by his point that there are opportunities to be lost or gained in privatizing assets owned by the state, something that was done with some success in Russia, but only with result that favored those who already had assets in the US, in the selling of the cellular air waves, for example. And finally, his point about asset poverty versus income poverty is also important, the former being more important in lifting future generations from the low economic rungs.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.  
Recommended reading  
By Midwest Book Review  
Taking advantage of things isn't an easy way to success; it's making the most of what has happened. "Opportunism: How to Change the World - One Idea at a Time" is a guide to creating those opportunities in life and to create a revolution of their own, be it of ideas or economy or something else. Too often it has been frowned upon that the opportunist swoops in to prosper, Shraga F. Biran urges people to shy away from such an idea and comes with plenty of wisdom maintaining his position. "Opportunism" is full of wisdom on opportunity, recommended reading.

In this bold and forward-looking book, an Israeli civic leader shows how reorienting our society to make the most of "opportunity" could restore the global economy to health and give added value to the contributions of the new class of knowledge workers. For most of us, opportunism is a tainted concept. Shraga F. Biran thinks otherwise. He shows that our present economy favors the wealthy few more than at any point in history. But such an economy is both unstable and outmoded, unable to recognize the true value of the work done by the new knowledge class, whose commerce is in ideas, not financial assets. This is why most of us have seen no real gains from the spectacular increases in paper wealth during the past three decades. Biran sees a transformative new way in Opportunism. In today's economy, he argues, the way to thrive is to create an opportunity and make the most of it. With great passion, he proposes that we as a society should establish a "right of opportunity," akin to patents and copyrights, enabling all members of society to lay claim to their ideas and benefit from them financially. Thus empowered, the new opportunists can help bring about a revolution in applied knowledge on the scale of the Industrial Revolution and a more just, stable, and prosperous society.

From Publishers Weekly  
In a time when creativity and innovation, not manufacturing and industry, are creating real value, society must enable all citizens to lay claim to their ideas and benefit from them financially, argues this sprightly manifesto from Israeli entrepreneur Biran. Though opportunism--that cagey ability to take advantage of a fortuitous constellation of time, place, and one's own abilities--has a bad name, it's an essential tool for change, and our current economic climate has opened up opportunities that governments and individuals must investigate. The financial crisis allows enormous possibilities for societies to redistribute wealth and implement reforms to create an overhauled system of creativity encouragement through patents and intellectual property protection--"social privatization," passing the intellectual capital back to the individual. Though Biran has a number of valid points and certainly argues them passionately, he's stretched a decent argument too thin in book-length format, resulting in a great deal of repetition and padding. Those interested in intellectual property and its legislative overhaul will be fascinated; others may find it overly academic and strained. (Jan.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. "Shraga Biran's compelling new book shakes conventional wisdom and provides a roadmap to understanding how social and intellectual capital are the 21st century drivers for economic growth. His careful intellectual history and breakthrough insights create a new definition of property rights that lead to real-world recommendations from an original and creative economic thinker. This is a brilliant and engaging treatise that will inspire business and public policies that bridge the unsustainable social and economic gaps in our global economy." --Glenn Yago, Executive Director, Financial Research, Milken Institute / Visiting Professor and Dean's Fellow, Hebrew University of Jerusalem Graduate School of Business