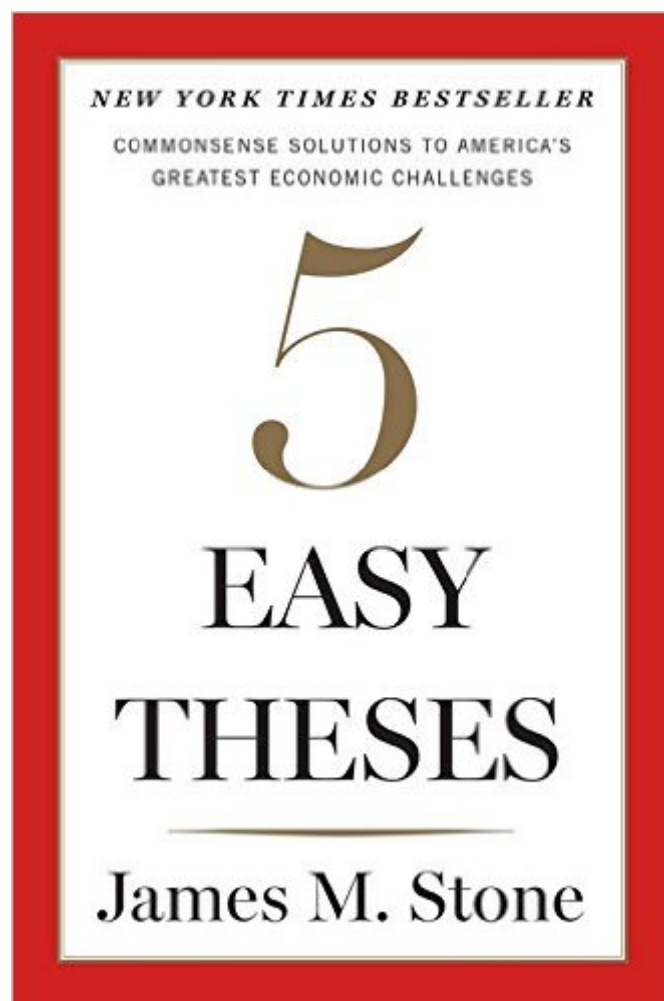


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# Five Easy Theses: Commonsense Solutions To America's Greatest Economic Challenges



## Synopsis

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A business leader and esteemed economic thinker outlines simple solutions to America's five most pressing public policy issues, from healthcare to education to inequality. America today confronts a host of urgent problems, many of them seemingly intractable, but some we are entirely capable of solving. In *Five Easy Theses*, James M. Stone presents specific, common-sense solutions to a handful of our most pressing challenges, showing how simple it would be to shore up Social Security, rein in an out-of-control financial sector, reduce inequality, and make healthcare and education better and more affordable. The means are right in front of us, Stone explains, in various policy options that "if implemented" could preserve or enhance government revenue while also channeling the national economy toward the greater good. Accessible and thought provoking, *Five Easy Theses* reveals that a more democratic, prosperous America is well within our reach.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What differentiates this from just being a very good book to what I think is an excellent one, is the background of the author, James M. Stone. Not only does he have an excellent financial academic start, but then in high level government positions, to starting and managing a decent size financial (insurance) company. So, a well diversified background to write about the challenges America must face, all depending heavily on understanding finance. He sees 5 main areas to tackle. Following each are some items covered. 1. Fiscal Balance Fix Social Security (adjust for life expectancy),

Medicare (too generous) and Government pensions (defined contribution and matches for new enrollees), eliminate home mortgage interest tax deduction, eliminate corporation debt interest tax deduction. 2. Inequality Both income and wealth distribution need to be addressed, in tax law especially looking at tax dodging by the wealthy and corporations via trusts, etc, also favoring long term investing and reducing speculating. The author also favors an annual tax on unrealized capital gains and also repealing the "step-up" cost basis for inherited assets. 3. Education More money into poor areas, more use of charter schools and more vocational education - better tracking of kids, also a national service program, increased early childhood education, and longer school hours. 4. Healthcare Lots of changes here - drug negotiating and other things plus a single negotiator, tackle end of life care, single payer and regulator, reduce excessive testing, reduce overuse of specialist doctors, salary more doctors, and more use of specialized nurses and physician assistants. 5.

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