



LSE Review of Books: Book Review Guidelines

Thank you for your contribution to the LSE Review of Books. We're looking forward to getting your work published very soon. These guidelines are provided to help you write your review.

Length and format

- Please stick to your deadline as closely as possible; this will usually be 4 weeks. Delays create gaps in the schedule which are hard for us to fill at short notice.
- We ask for reviews to be no more than 1000 words, but prefer them to be around 800 words.
- Edits are made to almost all reviews. Most of the time edits are for minor stylistic reasons, but you may be asked to provide more detail on a particular argument or chapter. All suggested changes will always be agreed with you before we publish.
- The review should be made up of 8 to 10 short paragraphs.
- Please send completed reviews, along with a short biography and headshot photo, before your deadline in a Word document to Lsereviewofbooks@lse.ac.uk

Opening paragraphs

- Use the opening paragraphs to introduce the book, its aims and any special relevance the author may have. For example, is he or she an academic or a prolific economist or writer? Has the author previously written an influential textbook? Is the author well known in the field?
- Comment on the timeliness of the book. Does the book relate to a 'hot topic' which you can draw on, such as the Leveson inquiry, same-sex marriage debate, a climate change summit, or the firing of a top executive?
- Use these paragraphs to draw your reader in and convince them that the review is important and relevant.

Body of the review

- Do not go through the book chapter by chapter, giving only minor details about the content. Instead, choose three chapters to concentrate on in much greater detail.
- Aim to give your readers a good understanding of the arguments presented in these chapters, using key quotes, statistics, anecdotes or other examples from the book.
- After introducing the arguments, comment on the strengths and weaknesses you feel these chapters have. Did you agree with the arguments the author made? Why or why not? Have other authors made a stronger case?
- Reviews need to be honest and of course all your own work, although it is fine to comment on the reception a book may have had already. Reviews also need to be fair; publishers want to see balanced assessments of their output but if a book is truly bad then say so!

Final comments

- Use the final paragraph to sum up the book in a couple of lines, commenting on the intended target audience, whether you would recommend the book, or some notes on what it lacks. We'd also welcome your thoughts on where the book fits into the current literature on the topic.

Style

- Our readership is very wide and includes policy makers, journalists, academics, students and members of the public.
- Some of the best book reviews are humorous and sharp, but descriptive and expressive reviews work just as well. Browse our [latest reviews](#) to see others, or take a look at the *Guardian* or *THE* book reviews for more examples.