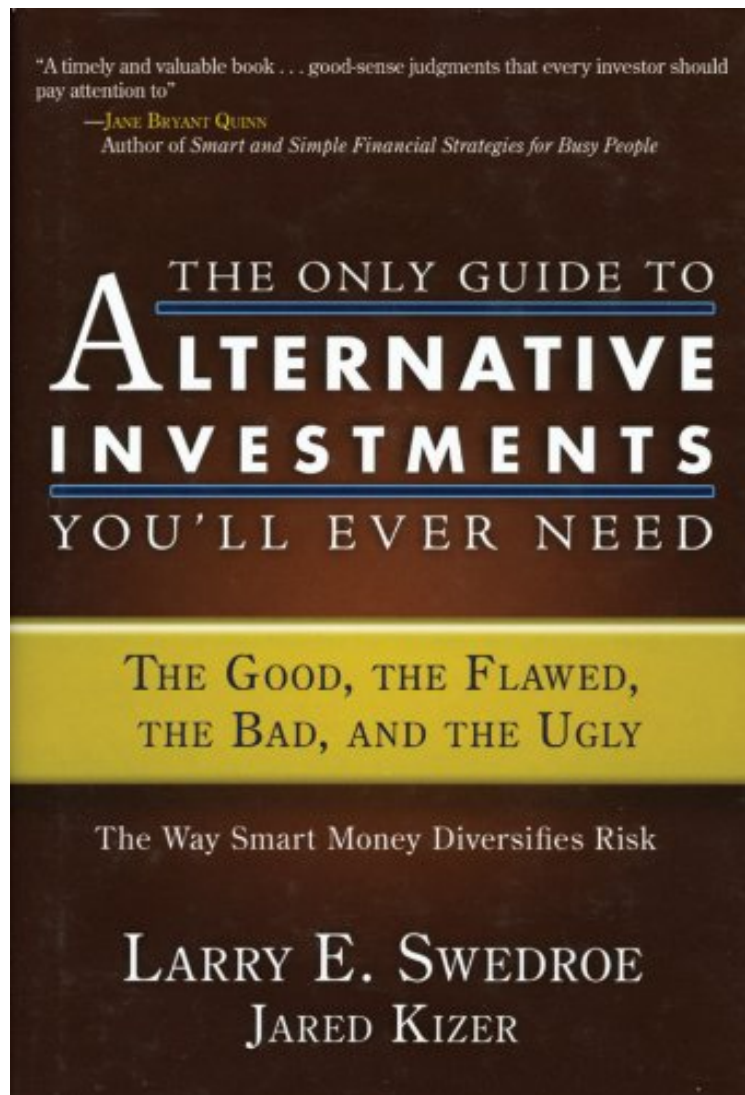


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The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You'll Ever Need: The Good, the Flawed, the Bad, and the Ugly (Bloomberg)

Larry E. Swedroe, Jared Kizer

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Larry E. Swedroe, Jared Kizer : **The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You'll Ever Need: The Good, the Flawed, the Bad, and the Ugly (Bloomberg)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You'll Ever Need: The Good, the Flawed, the Bad, and the Ugly (Bloomberg)**:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The GoodBy Carmelo (Fig) FigueroaViva! I have finished reading "The Only Guide to Alternative Investments You'll Ever Need (The Good, the Flawed, the Bad, and the Ugly) by

Larry Swedroe and Jared Kizer. Overall (as expected) great information. Larry and Jared researched at least twenty alternative investments to be included in the book. Of the twenty listed, only six were given a GREEN LIGHT, all in this group are potential winners--this includes a very good chapter on FIXED annuities. Eight of twenty were given a YELLOW LIGHT, they are in the flawed group--this includes a good chapter on high yield bonds (which I have owned). Six of twenty were given a RED LIGHT, if held in a portfolio the recommendation is to "throw them out like a hot potato"--this includes Equity-Indexed Annuities. Concur with some of the comments dealing with the chapter on hedge funds, this is the longest chapter (and the best, with a lot of good information), but in my opinion this topic applies to "Jane Q Million" and not to "Regular Jane" as hedge funds are for high net worth investors. Let me close this one by giving Larry and Jared a "Bravo Zulu" (International Signals for "Well Done") for a job well done on writing this book. And let me say this, I look forward to the revised edition or "PART II" which should be based on the results of "The Great Recession," covering the time during and after the financial markets debacle. An oh by the way, thanks to "Team " for delivering my book ahead of time. And to everyone stopping by to read this review: Thanks for reading.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent walk through the world of alternative investments. By Customer

An excellent walk through the world of alternative investments. Larry does an excellent job of walking through the good, bad, and ugly. Larry not only explains what each alternate investment is, but when (if at all) you should consider adding a particular alternative to your portfolio. Over the years, many of the pros/cons he discusses for each investment type have come true illustrating the value of his advice. Thanks for an excellent introduction to a not well understood corner of the investment world.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really Valuable

By Warthog

They say diversification is the only free lunch for investors. This book tells you how to best approach setting up a diversified portfolio and the positives and negatives of each type of asset class. I used these recommendations over the past few years and it clearly made a significant difference in my personal wealth. I would say this book paid for itself 10,000 times over and allowed me to retire a couple of years earlier than I planned. That is a huge win. Nothing other than my education has paid for itself so handsomely. Yes, as one review here stated, some chapters could be in greater depth. However the main takeaway conclusions are accurate and the key points are well addressed. If you need more depth, a specialized book on the topic(s) you are interested in would be appropriate.

The rewards of carefully chosen alternative investments can be great. But many investors don't know enough about unfamiliar investments to make wise choices. For that reason, financial advisers Larry Swedroe and Jared Kizer designed this book to bring investors up to speed on the twenty most popular alternative investments: Real estate, Inflation-protected securities, Commodities, International equities, Fixed annuities, Stable-value funds, High-yield (junk) bonds, Private equity (venture capital), Covered calls, Socially responsible mutual funds, Precious metals equities, Preferred stocks, Convertible bonds, Emerging market bonds, Hedge funds, Leveraged buyouts, Variable annuities, Equity-indexed annuities, Structured investment products, Leveraged funds

The authors describe how the investments work, the pros and cons of each, which to consider, which to avoid, and how to get started. Swedroe and Kizer evaluate each investment in terms of: Expected returns Volatility Distribution of returns Diversification potential Fees Trading and operating expenses Liquidity Tax efficiency Account location Role in an asset-allocation program

Any investor who is considering or just curious about investment opportunities outside the traditional world of stocks, bonds, and bank certificates of deposit would be well-advised to read this book.

"A timely and valuable book. These are good-sense judgments that every investor should pay attention to."

—Jane Bryant Quinn, author, "Smart and Simple Financial Strategies for Busy People"