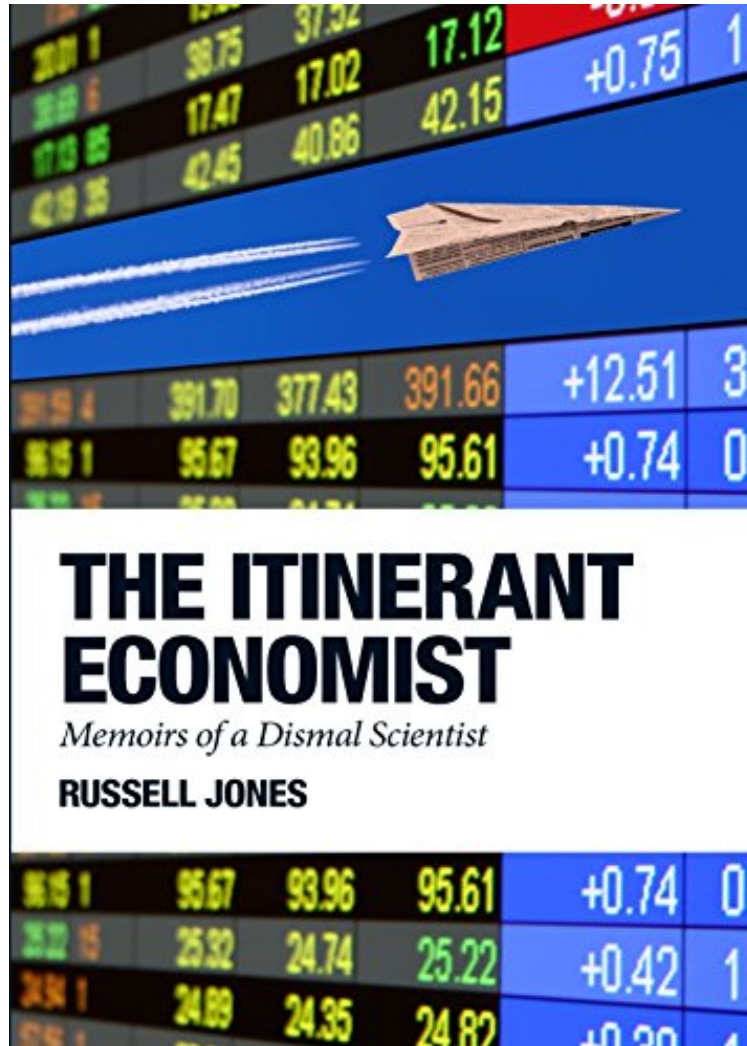


(Free) The Itinerant Economist: Memoirs of a Dismal Scientist

## The Itinerant Economist: Memoirs of a Dismal Scientist

*Russell Jones*

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**Russell Jones : The Itinerant Economist: Memoirs of a Dismal Scientist** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Itinerant Economist: Memoirs of a Dismal Scientist:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A excellent read for all those interested in finance and especially the role of economics in the industryBy Bertie BearHaving been a contemporary of Russell's at both school and university my own time-line working in the industry mirrored the author's closely. Hence I was particularly interested in reading about Russell's own experiences - from the early 1980's until the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 and beyond. I certainly can relate to his compelling narrative.I really enjoyed the engaging way Russell takes the reader though his extremely varied career, with its unpredictable twists and turns. His grounding in economic history at university gave him a knowledge of the 1930's Great Depression that stood him in extremely good stead throughout his career -- and in that he was extremely unusual and fortunate. This knowledge served him well, first as an economist in Tokyo in their

late 1980's boom and subsequent 1990's bust and he presents some excellent analysis and wonderfully entertaining anecdotes. After experiencing both the hubris and nemesis in Japan his insights into the Global Financial Crisis and particularly interesting and are heavy with credibility. But aside from being useful for any student of macro economics and finance of the period, I particularly enjoyed reading about Russell's personal journey through various jobs at investment banks and asset managers around the world. I felt tired and jet-lagged just reading about his punishing travel schedule. But it is those stories about human interactions with difficult clients, surely team members and the madness of management who amid the boom, seem congenitally unable to listen to any reasonable words of caution, that give this book the human touch and make it such an easy and enjoyable read. To be honest I'm not a big reader of books about the finance industry - Michael Lewis's being an exception. I have found Russell's book equally readable and a useful refresher from a historical perspective. In my opinion all new macro-analysts entering the industry should be given a copy of Russell's excellent book. It will serve them well. Albert Edwards

Economists and bankers have long been much maligned individuals, but never more so than in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis. Working as an economist for various financial institutions for more than twenty-five years Russell Jones had a foot in both camps. He plied his trade in a number of global financial centres including London, Tokyo, Sydney, New York and Abu Dhabi; experiencing at first hand the extraordinary ebb and flow of an industry that came to exert a disproportionate influence on the lives of almost everyone on the planet. This is the story of his journey.

"Russell Jones is an international man of mystery marooned in the world of finance. His captivating book asks all the hard questions about life on the trading floor: where am I? Why am I here? Why was I never asked? The answers are in turn vitriolic, incisive and hilarious with a touch of existential angst." Jamil Baz: Head of Investment Strategy at GLG Hedge Fund. "Russell Jones has managed to produce a fascinating insider's account of what it is like at the heart of the financial markets (if indeed they have one). But we are also offered the bonus of a penetrating series of observations on economic policy mistakes around the world in the run up to the Great Financial Crisis and after. The readership of this candid autobiographical account should not be confined to economists." William Keegan, Senior Economics Commentator at 'The Observer'. "Having lived through the same experiences, this is a most intriguing read. Anyone who has been through the world of finance the past 25 plus years should at a minimum, find this entertaining. In fact some might want to read it just to see if they appear " Jim O'Neill, Former Chairman, Goldman Sachs Asset Management About the Author Russell Jones has nearly three decades of experience working as a macroeconomist in the financial markets. He has occupied senior roles in London, Tokyo, the Middle East and Sydney, and he has worked on both the 'sell' and 'buy' sides of the business. He spent a decade at Lehman Brothers, where he was Chief Economist for Asia and Head of Foreign Exchange Research, and for a period he was also Chief Economist for the Treasury Department of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Russell has BSc and MSc degrees in economics and economic history from the University of Bristol.