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This year's topic: "What ideas or reforms could be developed that would make people better aware that government wants to live at their expense?"

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Our Books



[Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok: Modern Principles of Economics](#)



[Tyler Cowen: Create Your Own Economy: The Path to Prosperity in a Disordered World](#)



[Tyler Cowen: Discover Your Inner Economist: Use Incentives to Fall in Love, Survive Your](#)

« [Ezra Klein interviews Paul Ryan](#) | [Main](#) | [Markets in everything](#) »

What I've been reading

1. [The Weeping Goldsmith: Discoveries in the Land of Myanmar](#), by W. John Kress. The subtitle sounds so intriguing and then you discover its about the search for rare plants. But it turns out to be even better than you thought at first. It's a wonderful introduction to Myanmar, the idea of a scientific quest, and some aspects of botany. The photographs are beautiful too. I very much like books which serve up surprising combinations, as this one does.

2. Umberto Eco, [The Infinity of Lists](#). The color plates are beautiful and favor artworks with large numbers of massed individuals. The book itself is mostly excerpts of classic texts and it doesn't have much insight into...lists.

3. [Gridlock: Why We're Stuck in Traffic and What To Do About It](#), by Randall O'Toole. This Cato book is mostly an attack on transportation planning, including a critique of high-speed rail subsidies.

4. [Why Translation Matters](#), by Edith Grossman. Short but self-recommending. It is part of the "(Why X Matters)" series. Here is [one good review](#).

5. [No Such Thing as Silence: John Cage's 4'33"](#), by Kyle Gann. There are over twenty-four recordings of this piece and skeptics can consider that an attempt at competitive rent exhaustion. Yet probably none of those have come close to David Tudor's

Blog Ads

[The Incidental Economist](#)

Austin Frakt, especially good on health economics.



We Recommend



[Joel Mokyr: The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain 1700-1850 \(The New Economic History of Britain series\)](#)



[Jacqueline Novogratz: The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World](#)



presentation of the work at its premiere.

6. [Delhi: Adventures in a Megacity](#), by Sam Miller. Bombay had [its book](#), now Delhi has its. Recommended, it captures the feel of the place.

Posted by Tyler Cowen on March 5, 2010 at 06:10 AM in [Books](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments

For the sake of everyone interested in Delhi, I hope Miller's book is better than 'Maximum City,' surely among the more spurious experiments in narrative journalism to make it to bestseller lists in recent years. I know you enjoyed the coterminous 'Sacred Games,' Tyler; I'd venture to say that its figurative representation of Bombay is far more truthful - judged by the standards of fiction - than Mehta's non-fictional account.

Posted by: [roswitha](#) at Mar 5, 2010 7:30:27 AM

A CATO book that comes out against subsidies? Shocking!

Posted by: Tom at Mar 5, 2010 7:50:57 AM

Don't forget 'City of Djinns'- historian William Darymple's hackneyed but engrossing account of an expat's year in India that matches seasons to eras in Delhi history.

Posted by: Henry at Mar 5, 2010 7:58:21 AM

I need only think of Homer and Tolstoy to be grateful to translators considered good by those who know the originals.

Posted by: Candadai Tirumalai at Mar 5, 2010 9:22:05 AM

I recommend that you read this post. In this self-recommending post (see first sentence), I suggest that the book on 4:33 should have consisted of only