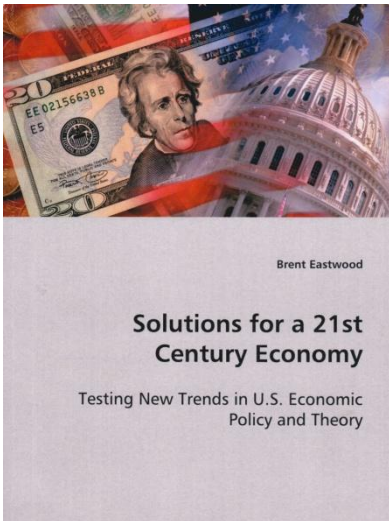


Solutions for a 21st Century Economy: Testing New Trends in U.S. Economic Policy and Theory



The future of the U.S economy is in question. Unemployment in the U.S. is at high levels as companies downsize and more jobs leave the country. The U.S. dollar continues to weaken along with high trade and budget deficits. The mortgage lending crisis lingers as housing prices continue to decline. Prices for energy, food, and health care keep rising.

What is the best way to boost the economy? There are some new answers that have been promoted but not tested. Does Richard Florida's Creative Class theory-cities with more talent, technology, and tolerance-actually add more jobs? Do cities with more social capital-where people use social networks, are more civic minded and trusting, and are more engaged in their community have better economic growth? Does economic freedom add more jobs in states that have smaller governments, fewer torts, less taxes, and reduced welfare spending? Can traditional Keynesian government spending still create economic growth in the 21st century?

Brent M. Eastwood, PhD, answers these questions and more while offering in-depth empirical evidence to support his own solutions for a 21st century economy. The study sampled 273 U.S. cities from 2000-2004. It measured economic development by job growth and total personal income growth. It sought to examine the best explanations for economic growth.

Brent M. Eastwood, PhD

Dr. Brent M. Eastwood is an experienced domestic policy and international security expert. He is the author of the 2008 book *Solutions for a 21st Century Economy*. He also co-wrote the "Economic Freedom Index: 2008 Report" from the Pacific Research Institute and *Forbes Magazine*. Brent was recently published in the academic journal *Applied Research in Economic Development*.

In 2008, Brent served as a floor whip for the John McCain for President Campaign at the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis. He has worked on numerous campaigns at the Presidential, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and state and local level. He ran for city council while a graduate student in 2005.

Brent represented George Mason University as an academic observer at the US Department of State's Middle East Peace Conference in Annapolis, Maryland in 2007.

He was chosen to represent the U.S. at the 2006 NATO Summit "Young Leaders' Forum" in Riga, Latvia where he gave foreign policy recommendations on the war in Afghanistan to the NATO Secretary-General.

Brent was also an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University School of Public Policy where he taught graduate seminars in national security, governance, and public policy.

He has been a contributor to *The American*, a national magazine from the American Enterprise Institute. Brent has served as an Adjunct Researcher in Science and Technology for the RAND Corporation's National Defense Research Institute. He conducted strategic policy, performed technical analysis, and co-authored two studies for the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (AT&L).

He is a former US Army Infantry officer and Distinguished Military Graduate with five years military experience. Brent has earned a PhD in Political Science, an MA in Political Science/ International Relations, an MS in Journalism, and a BA in English.

Brent is married to Melanie Sanchez Eastwood. They have one son and live in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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