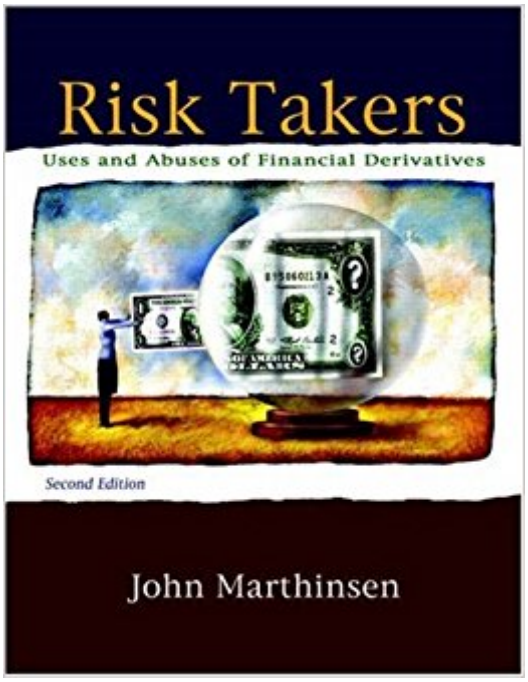
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Risk Takers: Uses And Abuses Of Financial Derivatives (2nd Edition)



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Synopsis

Ã Â In an approachable, non-technical manner, Risk Takers brings eight modern financial derivatives situations to life, fully exploring the context of each event and evaluating the outcomes. Primer on Derivatives; Employee Stock Options: What Every MBA Student Should Know; Roche Holding: The Company, Its Financial Strategy, and Bull Spread Warrants; Metallgesellschaft AG: Illusion of Profits and Losses; Reality of Cash Flows; Swaps That Shook an Industry: Procter & Gamble versus Bankers Trust; Orange County: The Largest Municipal Failure in U.S. History; Barings Bank PLC: LeesonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Lessons; Long Term Capital Mismanagement: Ã¢â ¬Å“JM & The Arb BoysÃ¢â ¬Â•; Amaranth Advisors LLC: Using Natural Gas Futures to Bet on the Weather. For all readers interested in financial derivatives, options, futures, and risk management.

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John E. Marthinsen is a professor of Economics and International Business at Babson College where he teaches in the areas of global macroeconomic analysis, risk management, and international finance. From 1992 to 1998, he served as chairman of the Economics Division. In 1997, Babson College awarded him the Distinguished Chair in Swiss Economics of the newly founded Glavin Center for Global Entrepreneurial Leadership. In addition to teaching, Marthinsen is the author of numerous articles and the book Managing in a Global Economy: Demystifying International Macroeconomics, as well as the co-author of three other books, Switzerland: A Guide to the Capital and Money Markets, Ã Â Entrepreneurship, Productivity, and the Freedom of Information Act, and Wealth by Association: Global Prosperity through Market Unification.

This was quite an interesting book to read. We had to do a book report on it for my class, and I was guessing it would be pretty boring. But I was so wrong this was a very insightful and interesting read. Each chapter seemed to showcase an even worse failure of the derivative market. By the end, you don't even know how any failure that large could occur. But they are all true stories and go over many of the derivative market well for those with a basic to intermediate knowledge of derivatives. For those that are more advanced, they might not learn as much on how any contract types work or options, but they will still learn about some huge missuses of derivatives. So still some knowledge for everyone.

I used this book for a Risk Management course in my MBA program. We had to read all of the cases in it which cover different hedge fund failures or derivative scams in which major companies lost billions of dollars. It is a very informative book which can get technical at some parts. It discusses the trading strategies of companies like Banker's Trust, LTCM, Amaranth, and many more. It is definitely worth the money and provides you with some impressive facts on the OTC market.

For anyone who studies or has studied derivatives, this text covers the most important historical cases. These cases not only provide essential background information, but indirectly teach the principles of derivatives in an easy to understand manner.

great

Good Condition

The book looks cheap and comes with weird printing quality. There are strange shadows somewhere here and there around the graphs and charts. Alto the location of the body of article is different for different pages, some close to the right margin while some to the left.In a word, does not look like something decently produced in the US. Little bit disspointed.

Because there is no table of content here, I would like to take the priviledge to type one for you.Ch 1 Employee stock options: what every MBA should knowCh 2 Roche Holding: the company, its financial strategy, and bull spread warrantsCh 3 The three amigos (three option traders)Ch 4 Metallgesellschaft AG: illusion of P/L, reality of cash flowsCh 5 Swaps that shook an industry; P&G vs Bankers TrustCh 6 Orange County: the largest municipal failure in US historyCh 7 Barings Bank PLC: Lesson’s lessonsCh 8 Long-Term Mismanagement: "John Merriwether and the Arb Boys"IMHO, the author had delivered well what he promised on the book title. The cases are representative, concise but sufficiently detailed. The review questions in the end of each chapter and the absence of sophisticated option pricing formula make it particularly suitable as an HBR type textbooks on derivatives for business school undergrads. However, I am obliged to comment that the author had overlooked the negative influence of investmment bankers on the proliferation of derviatives. For readers who want to get a more complete picture, I would strongly recommend "Devil Take the Hindmost: A History of Financial Speculation by Edward Chancellor", "Fiasco by Frank Partnoy", "Eyewitness to Wall Street by David Colbert" and "Wall Street Meat by Andy Kessler".

This book features examples of both good and bad uses of derivatives. All the scandals we read about in the newspaper are a result of certain factors which we can learn from. It is clear that each scandal has a lesson for us to learn from, but derivatives as financial instruments in itself are not bad or destructive. This book shows these lessons with simple explanations.A must-have book.

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