

Foreword to the Russian Edition

This book continues the series offered by the SKOLKOVO School of Management in Moscow, which encompasses literary works of bright and extraordinary authors. "Inside the Economists Mind" (title of the translation "Conversations with Nobel Laureates") deserves a special place in the series, not only because it is a collection of interviews with the most brilliant economists, but also since most of these scientists are specialists in macroeconomics, and a wide array of questions pertaining to various actual problems of political, economic, and social development of society are discussed.

The magnitude of the personality of the interviewees defines a wide spectrum of the problems studied. Conversations with such unique individuals demonstrate how massive and complex their professional goals are, which of course have a huge educational impact on any young person taking their first steps in their career, whether in business or some other area.

The interviewees, among others, include former and current governors of central banks, as well as a former head of the Committee of Economic Advisers to the President of the United States. Therefore these conversations about the mechanisms of government regulation on economics and business, the increasing role of the instruments of economic policy during times of crisis, the specifics of the mutual relationship of the government and economic advisers in Europe and the USA are particularly interesting. The rich experience of practicing economists of this caliber makes their judgment and conclusions more persuasive, and their life and career stories priceless.

Though the interview format is quite unorthodox for a book of this content, in this case it fits very well and is justified. First of all, in a conversation, the author of even the most complex mathematical models must explain his research ideas in simple and clear terms. Secondly, the interviewer is typically interested in the biography of the interviewee, especially regarding the turning points in her life, career, and the decisive criteria involved in choosing their topic of research. Lastly, genuine and emotional answers add a special "flavor" to the discussion. Despite the language in some interviews being more technical, the inquisitive reader will be rewarded: the book is full of facts and anecdotes which are incredibly informative.

There is an added aspect of the content of the book which holds value for us. The topic of the schools that they attended and worked at holds a special place in conversations with these great people. These are schools with worldwide recognition: Harvard Business School, Yale, MIT, and others. The reader will get a better understanding of the principles involved in establishing an prestigious school, as well as methods that maintain this prestige.

Students and instructors will find useful examples of what talented people can do as advisers: how they infect the students with their ideas and help them join the quest to answer the most complex questions, and how this leads to the creation of an environment of constructive collaboration. I am confident that these examples will not leave the reader uninspired, and that the experience of the leading schools of the world will help us form the best traditions of Russian business education, here at the SKOLKOVO School of Management and elsewhere.

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