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BRENT RUNYON discusses *The Burn Journals*

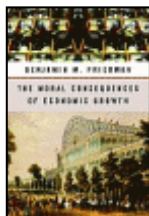
BENJAMIN M. FRIEDMAN discusses *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth*

STEPHEN GREENBLATT gives a talk entitled "Longing for Life: Why We Read (and Write) Literary Biographies"

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BENJAMIN M. FRIEDMAN discusses *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth*

Harvard Book Store is pleased to announce that on Thursday, November 10th **Benjamin M. Friedman** will discuss his book *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth*.

"Are we right," Benjamin M. Friedman asks, "to care so much about economic growth as we clearly do?" To answer, Friedman reaches beyond economics. He examines the political and social histories of the large Western democracies—particularly of the United States—distinguishing times of generally rising living standards from those of pervasive stagnation to illustrate how rising incomes render a society more open and democratic.

Friedman also delineates the role of economic growth in determining which developing nations extend the broadest freedoms to their citizenry. He makes clear that growth, rather than just the level of living standards, is key to effecting political and social liberalization in the third world. But he also warns that the democratic values of countries even as wealthy as our own are at risk whenever incomes stagnate for extended periods. Merely being rich is no protection against a society's retreat into rigidity and intolerance once enough of its citizens lose the sense that they are getting ahead.

Finally, Friedman shows us why, if America is to strengthen democratic institutions around the world as a bulwark against terrorism and social unrest, we must aggressively pursue growth at home and promote worldwide economic expansion beyond what purely market-driven forces would create. And for the United States, he offers concrete suggestions for policy steps to achieve those objectives.

CONTACT:

Charlotte Silver
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csilver@harvard.com

Event Information

DATE: Thursday, November 10th

TIME: 6:30 PM

LOCATION: **Harvard Book Store**

1256 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge

No tickets are required unless otherwise noted. Tickets for events requiring them are available at Harvard Book Store. Please call (617) 661-1515 for more information.

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Benjamin M. Friedman

Author Biography

Benjamin M. Friedman is the William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy and former chairman of the Department of Economics at Harvard University, where he has taught for more than three decades. His book *Day of Reckoning: The Consequences of American Economic Policy Under Reagan and After* received the George S. Eccles Prize, awarded annually for excellence in writing about economics. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Review of Books*. Most recently he was the 2005 recipient of the John R. Commons Award, presented in recognition of achievements in economics and service to the economics profession. He and his wife, Barbara, and their two sons live in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

More books by [Benjamin M. Friedman](#)

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