

(Library ebook) Against Intellectual Monopoly

## Against Intellectual Monopoly

*Michele Boldrin, David K. Levine*  
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**Michele Boldrin, David K. Levine : Against Intellectual Monopoly** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Against Intellectual Monopoly:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very compelling argument against intellectual property as we know itBy Patrick JuliusI found it a bit odd that this book opposed to all copyright and patent is in fact copyrighted, but I felt better once I learned that they've also released the full text online with a free license. Though economically sophisticated, the book is never dry or overly technical; it simply lays out the case against intellectual property (or as they insist it should be called, "intellectual monopoly") in vivid detail. By the end of the book I found myself

completely convinced that patents must go, but still ambivalent about copyrights---which I guess seems appropriate, given that the book itself is copyrighted. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Persuasive Arguments Poorly Presented By Bill A. Against Intellectual Monopoly contains some absolute gems of insight and analysis, and altogether makes some very persuasive arguments against copyright and patent protections. The problem is that these gems are buried randomly among its 300-plus pages. The book reads more like the world's longest abstract. The table of contents may very well have been an afterthought. General impressions are haphazardly mixed with studied opinions and facts. This lack of consistency and rigor--both literary and logical--detracts from the overall punch. I, for one, am thoroughly convinced. But I'm an easy sell. Unfortunately this book is unlikely to convert intellectual property proponents or fence sitters. It's something of a missed opportunity, though I certainly appreciate and commend the authors' efforts at writing for a lay audience. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a very interesting read. The points made ... By john gjaltema This is a very interesting read. The points made against intellectual property are very strong. The Author is very persuasive, and even after reading the book I agree one hundred percent with the author, but if I was to patent a lucrative project I believe I would want a monopoly. Only government can put an end to intellectual monopoly, and leave everyone with an open playing field. I certainly hope government stops monopoly because freedom of information, and human advancement will move at a very quick rate.

"Intellectual property" - patents and copyrights - have become controversial. We witness teenagers being sued for "pirating" music - and we observe AIDS patients in Africa dying due to lack of ability to pay for drugs that are high priced to satisfy patent holders. Are patents and copyrights essential to thriving creation and innovation - do we need them so that we all may enjoy fine music and good health? Across time and space the resounding answer is: No. So-called intellectual property is in fact an "intellectual monopoly" that hinders rather than helps the competitive free market regime that has delivered wealth and innovation to our doorsteps. This book has broad coverage of both copyrights and patents and is designed for a general audience, focusing on simple examples. The authors conclude that the only sensible policy to follow is to eliminate the patents and copyright systems as they currently exist.

"One should bear a heavy burden of proof to enjoy a monopoly. Boldrin and Levine have dramatically increased that burden for those who enjoy intellectual monopoly. All economists, lawyers, judges, and policymakers should read this book." - W. A. Brock, University of Wisconsin, Madison "Boldrin and Levine, highly respected economic theorists, have produced a lively and readable book for the intelligent layman. In it, they challenge conventional wisdom about patents and argue that we would be better off without them. The book will open a fresh debate on the policy on intellectual property protection." - Boyan Jovanovic, New York University "There is a growing and important skepticism about the fundamental rules we have used to regulate access to information and innovation. This beautifully written and compelling argument takes the lead in that skeptical charge." - Lawrence Lessig, Stanford Law School "For centuries, intellectual property rights have been viewed as essential to innovation. Now Boldrin and Levine, two top-flight economists, propose that the entire IPR system be scrapped. Their arguments will generate controversy but deserve serious examination." - Eric Maskin, Nobel Laureate, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton "This is an important and needed book. The case made by Boldrin and Levine against giving excessive monopoly rights to intellectual property is a convincing one. Monopoly in intellectual property impedes the development of useful knowledge. I think they make the case that granting these monopoly rights slows innovation." - Edward C. Prescott, Nobel Laureate, University of Minnesota "Boldrin and Levine present a powerful argument that intellectual property rights as they have evolved are detrimental to efficient economic organization." - Douglass C. North, Nobel Laureate, Washington University in St. Louis "How have we come to view ideas as if they have some physical existence that we can lock up behind a set of property rights laws akin to, but remarkably different from, those we use to protect our physical property? This is the central question in *Against Intellectual Monopoly* by Michele Boldrin and David Levine. The answer they come to is startling: except in a few rare cases, intellectual property protection does more economic harm than good and ought to be eliminated. The technology of digital computers and the Internet, as Boldrin and Levine show again and again, has exposed long-standing moral shortcomings of current intellectual property laws in a particularly stark way." - Stephen Spear, Carnegie Mellon University "Boldrin and Levine expose many real and costly flaws of the U.S. system of patents and copyrights... [and] provide support for further reforms of intellectual property law." - Richard Gilbert, University of California Berkeley, *Journal of Economic Literature* About the Author Michele Boldrin is Joseph G. Hoyt Distinguished Professor of Economics in Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (London) and at FEDEA (Madrid). He is an Associate Editor of *Econometrica*, an Editor of the *Journal of Economic Dynamics*, and an Advisory Editor of *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, published by Cambridge University Press. His research interests include growth, innovation, and business cycles; intergenerational and demographic issues; public policy; institutions; and social norms. He is the coauthor or coeditor of four books and has published in leading journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, the *Journal of Economic Studies*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Journal of Economic Theory*, the *Journal of Economic Dynamics*, the

Journal of Monetary Economics, and the Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control. David K. Levine is John H. Biggs Distinguished Professor of Economics in Arts and Sciences at Washington University in St Louis. He is a coeditor of *Econometrica*, coeditor of *NAJ Economics*, President of the Society for Economic Dynamics, a Fellow of the Econometric Society, and a Research Associate of the National Bureau for Economic Research. Author with Drew Fudenberg of *Learning in Games* and editor of several conference volumes, his research interests include the study of intellectual property and endogenous growth in dynamic general equilibrium models; the endogenous formation of preferences, institutions, and social norms; and the application of game theory to experimental economics. Professor Levine has published in leading journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Journal of Economic Studies*, the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Journal of Economic Theory*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and the *American Political Science Review*.