

# BUILDING THE GOOD SOCIETY

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# BUILDING THE GOOD SOCIETY

The Power and Limits of Markets,  
Democracy and Freedom in an  
Increasingly Polarized World

LLOYD J. DUMAS

*University of Texas at Dallas, USA*



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Lloyd J. Dumas** is Professor of Political Economy, Economics and Public Policy at the University of Texas at Dallas. Dumas' eight books include *The Peacekeeping Economy: Using Economic Relationships to Build a More Peaceful, Prosperous, and Secure World* (Yale University) and *The Technology Trap: Where Human Error and Malevolence Meet Powerful Technologies* (Praeger). He has published over 120 articles in 11 languages in books and journals of seven disciplines, and periodicals such as *New York Times* and *International Herald Tribune*. He has been quoted in *Business Week*, the *Financial Times*, and *Barron's*, and he has appeared on more than 300 TV and radio programs in the US and around the world.

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# FOREWORD

With the defeat of fascism in the middle of the twentieth century and the peaceful ending of the Cold War threat of nuclear annihilation a few decades later, there was a great deal of optimism that the world was becoming a more peaceful place. With the success of a series of pro-democracy nonviolent “people power” revolutions in overthrowing brutal dictatorships in Eastern Europe and elsewhere in the mid-1980s and the initially spectacular success of the pro-democracy nonviolent “people power” revolutions that overthrew dictatorial regimes in North Africa during the “Arab Spring” a few decades later, there was a great deal of optimism that the spread of democracy throughout the world was just around the corner. By the second decade of the twenty-first century, that optimism was rapidly fading. Yet we cannot afford to lose the hope or give up the dream.

This book is written in the spirit of trying to make it plain that a better world – a world in which we can finally realize the persistent vision of more peaceful, prosperous, democratic, and free societies – is not only a possible but also an eminently practical and achievable goal. It is not a blueprint for or a road map to such a world, but a guide to more effectively modifying and combining the elements of that world we have already put in place.

L. J. Dumas

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