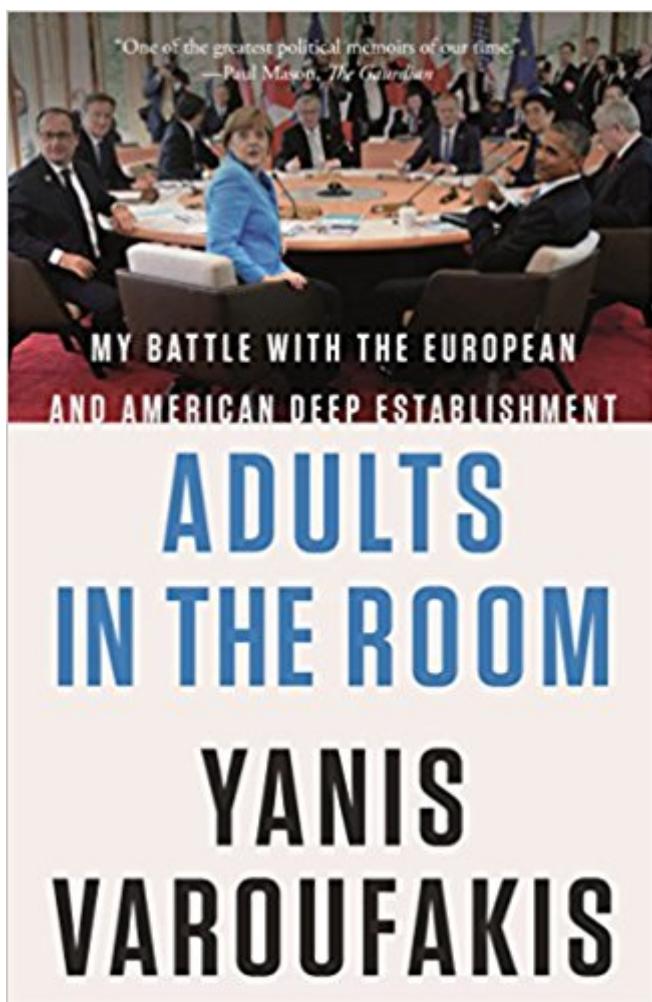


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# Adults In The Room: My Battle With The European And American Deep Establishment



## Synopsis

A Number One Sunday Times Bestseller What happens when you take on the establishment? In *Adults in the Room*, the renowned economist and former finance minister of Greece Yanis Varoufakis gives the full, blistering account of his momentous clash with the mightiest economic and political forces on earth. After being swept into power with the left-wing Syriza party, Varoufakis attempts to renegotiate Greece's relationship with the EU and sparks a spectacular battle with global implications. Varoufakis' new position sends him ricocheting between mass demonstrations in Athens, closed-door negotiations in drab EU and IMF offices, and furtive meetings with power brokers in Washington, D.C. He consults and quarrels with Barack Obama, Emmanuel Macron, Christine Lagarde, the economists Larry Summers and Jeffrey Sachs, and others, as he struggles to resolve Greece's debt crisis without resorting to punishing austerity measures. But despite the mass support of the Greek people and the simple logic of Varoufakis' arguments, he succeeds only in provoking the fury of Europe's elite. Varoufakis' unvarnished memoir is an urgent warning that the economic policies once embraced by the EU and the White House have failed and spawned authoritarianism, populist revolt, and instability throughout the Western world. *Adults in the Room* is an extraordinary tale of brinkmanship, hypocrisy, collusion, and betrayal that will shake the global establishment to its foundations.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 560 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (October 3, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374101000

ISBN-13: 978-0374101008

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #98,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Greece #74 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Diplomacy #174 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Economic Policy

## Customer Reviews

"Varoufakis has written one of the greatest political memoirs of all time . . . it is the inside story of

high politics told by anoutsider . . . Varoufakis gives one of the most accurate and detailed descriptions of modern power ever written." •Paul Mason, *The Guardian*"A stylish memoir . . . deeply personal and very well written, with an impressive array of literary allusions . . . [Varoufakis] outlines a cogent case against the austerity heaped on Greece." •Kevin Featherstone, *Financial Times*"Riveting . . . An extraordinary account of low cunning at the heart of Greece's 2015 financial bailout . . . [Varoufakis is] a motorcycling, leather jacketed former academic and self-styled rebel who took pleasure in winding up the besuited political class . . . An admirably believable depiction of a Greek and European tragedy." •John Kampfner, *The Guardian*"Adults in the Room is a book that anyone interested in modern European politics should read. To say it is the best memoir of the Eurozone crisis is an understatement. It is a devastating indictment of [the] current state of Europe and a fascinating inside account of the logic of reformist politics and its limits and why it keeps going anyway . . . Varoufakis's account of the operations of EU 'decision-making' is truly shocking. He delivers a truly shocking anatomy of an apparatus bent on perpetuating its own bad logic and excluding alternatives." •Adam Tooze, Shelby Cullom Davis Chair of History and Director of the European Institute at Columbia University, and author of *The Deluge*"One of my few heroes. As long as people like Varoufakis are around, there still is hope." •Slavoj Žižek"A very, very clever person, and in the basic argument about what's been going on in Europe I think he's right." •Martin Wolf"An outstanding economist and political analyst." •Noam Chomsky"The most interesting man in the world." •Business Insider"The Thucydides of our time." •Jeffrey Sachs

Yanis Varoufakis is the former finance minister of Greece and the cofounder of an international grassroots movement, DiEM25, that is campaigning for the revival of democracy in Europe. He is the author of *And the Weak Suffer What They Must?* and *The Global Minotaur*. After teaching for many years in the United States, Britain, and Australia, he is currently a professor of economics at the University of Athens.

This book is unsurpassed as an account of the world of politics and economics as they truly exist - entwined together in the real world, immersed in the futile pursuit of power at any cost by an isolated elite who have no concern for the impact of their actions on the lives of millions. Anyone interested in stepping beyond the tired dogma of academia and the infantile myths of the mainstream media should read this book. But beware; for those who believe they understand the world from reading *The Guardian*, CNN etc it contains evidence, facts and unavoidable conclusions told by a brilliantly lucid narrator that you might find contradicts the comfortable nonsense you're used to. As a post

graduate in politics, I've never read a book like it. Varoufakis, along with David Graeber, Warren Mosler and Nassim Taleb is one of the four most important authors of our time,

"Adults in the Room" is actually a much better title than the one I use for this review, for its acerbic irony if for no other reason. But the book does show, with great clarity, that the Emperor has indeed no clothes on. This is a book every European, or any person who cares about Europe, should read. It is part memoir, part exposé, part impassioned plea for a democratic, humane, rational European Union. Irrationality breeds irrationality. The "I know I'm wrong but don't you dare say so" attitude, so forcefully portrayed and so minutely detailed in this book, is one of the reasons why larger and larger numbers of Europeans vote against what they regard as a lying, rotten, despotic establishment. One other reviewer notes that Mr. Varoufakis doesn't see Mr. Schäuble as a monster, but rather as a tragic character. Be that as it may, the hubris displayed by Mr. Schäuble, Mr. Dijsselbloem and others was nothing short of monstrous.

"Adults in the Room" masterfully oscillates between the thrilling and the lyrical, the very personal and the universal, giving us a unique glimpse behind the high walls of power. This book will be uncomfortable or even dangerous for many current politicians, from Europe's governments and EU institutions to the IMF and of course Greece's Syriza party. Former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis (boy, does that title ever feel inadequate given the impact he had and has!) never made a secret of the fact that he comes to politics as an outsider. He is not a member of any party, not even the one that put him in office (which they couldn't fail to do after he won more votes than any other MP). As such, he is not entangled with a net of interests and he has no qualms to tell all that he saw during his time on the 'inside' of international politics. Behind closed doors, politicians like German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble turn out to be not monsters but heroes of a classic Greek tragedy. Varoufakis is not unkind or unsympathetic to him - which should come as a big surprise to anyone who bought into the mainstream media reporting of the time, which often presented the 2015 negotiations as a cock fight between Varoufakis and Schäuble. But the mainstream media were/are not uninvolved in the Greek crisis, they have a role to play, too, in a system that, like the Soviet Union in the late 80s, will deny basic economic and political truths and pretend that all is well until the very moment of its collapse. Varoufakis came as a non-insider to save the system, flawed as it may be, knowing that a collapse would cause untold hardships for tens of millions of people. And after having discovered, over the course of the time period narrated in this book, that the insiders well know the truth, and know what needs to be done, but are unable

or unwilling to do it, the logical next step is to expose them, so that the light of transparency may bring about the change that working with these people could not. That is also one of the ideas of the movement he founded last year, DiEM25 (Democracy in Europe Movement 2025), which demands not just a re-orientation of the EU to serve its people, but also complete transparency of all powerful illegitimate (formally non-existent) institutions like the Eurogroup. I knew that Yanis Varoufakis could make even dull subjects very interesting, as proven in the economics textbooks he authored and his account of the history of a common currency ("And the Weak Suffer What They Must"). Given an interesting subject to start with, one that affects everyone who is concerned about the future of the European Union, his writing style becomes absolutely breathtaking. Highly recommended!

Well written and interesting. The Eurogroup meetings are described as a clash of bureaucrats. Varoufakis speaks a different language. The difference between the Eurogroup's public story and the underlying motivation is immense. I was surprised that Varoufakis kept insisting on debt forgiveness, which must have looked ridiculous to Dijsselbloem. Dutch people do not forgive debt even in bankruptcy.

A very raw and clear description of the ways EU and its bureaucrats and leaders use to work with smaller countries. Very, very enlightening. RJCPortugal

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