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Sommario/riassunto	The discipline of economics suffers from a great deal of dissention among its practitioners. There are a number of economic fields that challenge the validity of "neoclassical economics" or what can be called "main-stream economics." The neoclassical school, which emerged in the 1870s, advanced the study of economics by developing a theory of value based on utility. The earlier classical school saw value as based on the labor content of goods. Neoclassical economics is what college students are taught in their courses on microeconomics. Instruction in microeconomics is centered on the principle that, for any good, price will adjust until supply equals demand. Challenges to this principle come from several sources: behavioral economics, neuroeconomics, Austrian economics, Keynesian economics, and others. A common thread running through these fields is that neoclassical economics rests on unrealistic assumptions and must therefore be questioned for its

usefulness.This book argues that, contrary to the critics, neoclassical economicsis the only method available to economists for bringing about rational economic policy choices. Irrational policy choices are the result of voters and politicians letting sentiments, as Adam Smith defined them, get in the way of rational thought. Neoclassical economics predicts that minimum wage laws will cause unemployment of low-wage workers. Yet minimum wage laws remain popular with both voters and politicians. It is the job of economists to question this popularity.