



Self-Help / Economic Conditions / Poverty

“*The Economic Dependency Trap* is a must for anyone seeking greater insights into the impacts of economic dependency. Here Calvin Helin boldly raises the bar well over what is stereotypically viewed as an issue for the poor. He has redefined and reassigned thinking about economic dependency across the societal spectrum and supported it with well-grounded research. Reading this book will, at the very least, open the heart and stimulate the mind to greater and better things.”

—Te Taru White
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Maori Arts and Crafts Institute

“Calvin Helin’s epic study of dependence—the physical, mental, and spiritual harm it spreads among its victims—is a revolutionary document. A leading indigenous lawyer, the son of a fisherman, and very much a self-made intellectual and reluctant advocate, Calvin speaks for the economically dependent from the heart and from the gut. The collected wisdom in this book will lift the burden and let the sun shine in. It sets out a hitchhiker’s guide to freedom, independence, and pride.”

—Peter C. Newman
Best-selling author

“Calvin Helin is a true inspiration.”

—Nancy C. Southern, president and CEO, ATCO Group

“Calvin Helin, one of the world’s foremost thought leaders on poverty reduction through self-reliance, is a true hero of our time. His new book creates a blueprint for a more just, compassionate, and economically sustainable world. As someone who has spent fifteen years engaged in policy debate, I cannot think of a more prudent book for our generation. Drawing from his own story to illustrate his bold vision, Calvin details progressive, innovative ideas for personal and collective action. It is a must read for anyone who cares about the future of our community—here at home and around the world.”

—D. Simon Jackson
Founder and chairman, Spirit Bear Youth Coalition



RAVENCREST PUBLISHING



CALVIN HELIN

THE ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY TRAP

The ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

Trap



BREAKING FREE TO SELF-RELIANCE

CALVIN HELIN

USA \$22.95

CAN \$27.95

From drug-riddled urban public housing projects to impoverished Native American reservations to decaying coal mining towns, economic dependency has become a way of life for millions. But government welfare checks instill in their recipients a false sense of entitlement. The results are a perverse psychology marked by inferiority complex, victim thinking, lack of confidence, learned helplessness, inability to cope with adversity, an absence of self-responsibility and accountability, and ultimately an inability to feel the empowerment that self-sufficiency can bring. Worse, such attitudes are passed on from generation to generation until too often they become normalized.

What many policymakers and commentators fail to realize is that the corrosive effects of economic dependency are not limited to the poor. Consider the \$1 trillion in international aid that the United States, Canada, and other governments have paid to developing nations in the last half century—with disheartening results. Or the billions in bailout money paid to financial institutions because they are “too big to fail.” The damage caused by programs like these, it turns out, is no different from the sense of entitlement fostered by middle-class parents around the world who lavish newfound wealth on their children, only to find themselves creating a spoiled, undisciplined younger generation lacking the skills and even the desire to become responsible adults.

Author Calvin Helin worked his way up from an impoverished boyhood in a remote Native American village to become a successful attorney and international businessman. He has dedicated his life to helping others break the bonds of economic dependency and emerge with newfound confidence and self-worth. Now, in his new book, *The Economic Dependency Trap: Breaking Free to Self-Reliance*, Helin reveals the hidden puppet strings attached to handouts on every level, from households to the global economy. He proposes groundbreaking, positive solutions in down-to-earth language every reader can relate to.

This book is essential reading for educators, community organizers, and others who work for social reform, as well as for pundits and policymakers. Most importantly, it is for people in all strata of society who are seeking a nonpartisan blueprint for breaking out of the prison of economic dependency, improving their own life circumstances, and achieving prosperity based on self-reliance.

Calvin Helin, a member of the Native American Tsimshian Nation and son of a hereditary chief, works as an attorney and entrepreneur. Helin has written several publications on law, indigenous business, and associated issues, and has developed an international reputation through his best-selling book, *Dances with Dependency: Out of Poverty through Self-Reliance*, originally published in 2006.

Helin runs business enterprises that include the Eagle Group of Companies, LLC, and the Native Investment and Trade Association. He holds directorships on several international and business-related nonprofit organizations. He has received top “40 Under 40” awards regionally and nationally. He has served as chairman of a recent indigenous trade delegation to China and introduced an innovative business model to promote long-term benefits to indigenous people from natural resource development.

Helin also serves as an advisory board member of the SOS Children’s Village. In addition, he teaches at the Shudokan Karate and Education Society, a group he founded in 2002 that provides free martial arts lessons to disadvantaged inner-city children as a way of teaching them discipline, manners, self-respect, and other important life lessons. For more information, please visit his Web site: www.calvinhelin.com.

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