

**Review published in Hungarian, excerpts**  
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János Kornai is a determinant character of Hungarian economics. He is Professor Emeritus of Harvard University and Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Study, regular member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and honorary doctor of numerous universities. He is perhaps the most productive author of the last 50 years whose studies have been published by the publishing houses and magazines of dozens of countries, including for example first-rate economic journals of the American Economic Association: American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Literature and Journal of Economic Perspectives.

At the same time, Kornai is not only famous for the impressive number and variety of his papers, but also for being far the most-often cited Hungarian author in Hungary and abroad. There is hardly any topic, ranging from the healthcare reform to growth theories, about which one could publish a paper without reference to Kornai's works.

(...)

János Kornai's memoir is a peculiar mixture of personal memories and the presentation of his scientific work. This book could be interesting for everyone curious about the era that started in the 1940's; everyone, be it an economist or any other intellectual who is interested in the public issues and the recent past of Hungary. It offers an insight into the author's adventurous life, and it presents us his most important works and also some information that had been left out of them. (...) As usual, this book of Kornai also demonstrates reservation, a lack of self-justification and proper balance, which are enhanced, rather than ruined by the personal tone. (...)