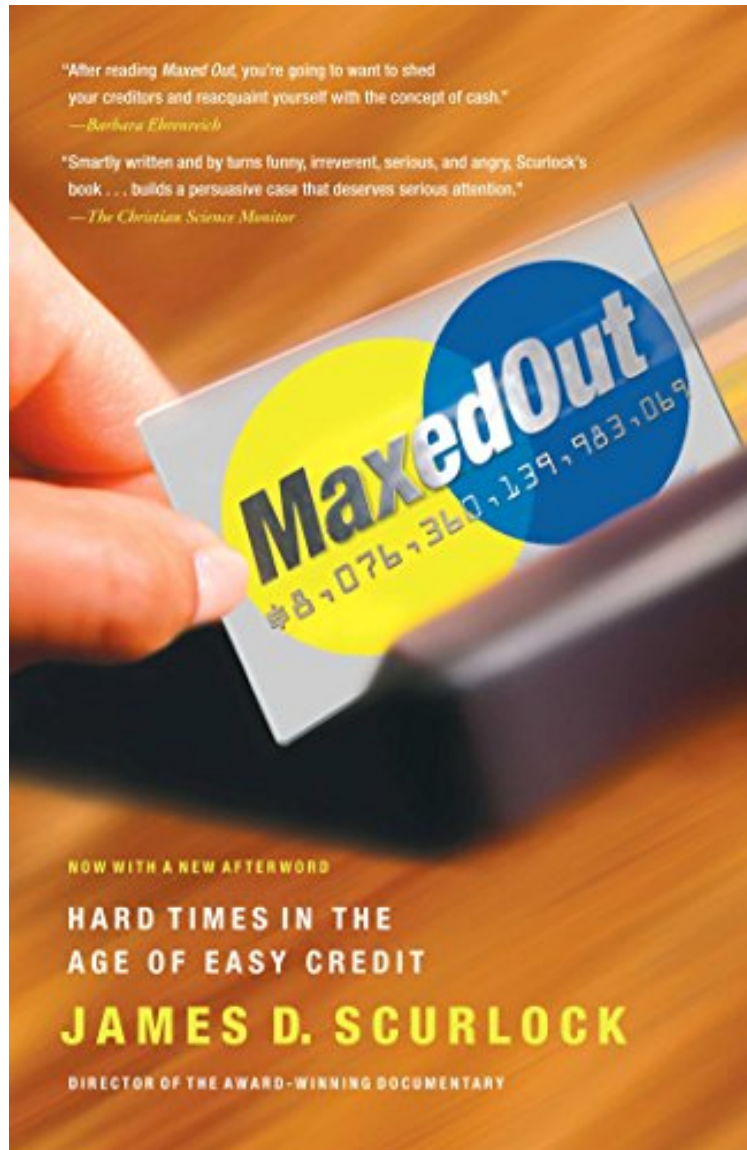


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Maxed Out: Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders

James D. Scurlock

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James D. Scurlock : Maxed Out: Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Maxed Out: Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It will influence your perspective. By TeresaReading this book has changed how I see credit, banks, finances as a whole. It makes me question a lot of the 'usual' traditional financial

practices in America. Do not expect to get spelled out financial advice in a clear step by step program. This book will give you the knowledge to help you make your own decisions better. It looks at the big picture of finances in America and brings it to the level of each American. I had some trouble keeping track of the names of the people being discussed throughout the book. The author describes one person's story and situation. Then he will mention this person again a few chapters later. He didn't always refresh the reader's memory of the story. Over all this is a great read for anyone who has ever thought about using credit. A must read for anyone who has credit. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and educational. By Cynthia L. Holwick I learned a lot from reading this book. I especially learned about the debt collecting practices and how debt collecting is more about profit than doing what is right. If you have more knowledge about debt collecting practices then you essentially have the leverage when it comes to paying back your debt.....that is if you are able. Never pay tons of money when you can settle for pennies on the dollar.....just like they did. I also learned about anti-trust laws and the big banks monopolizing our congress and seducing them with bribes to give the banks more power and more loop-holes. Unfortunately nothing in Washington will change until greed and corruption is addressed.....until then America will see the demise just like the Roman Empire and the former Soviet Union. Inefficiencies, greed, corruption and arrogance led to the demise of these and America will see this similar fate. Must read for those who want to be aware of the times they are living in. Knowledge is power.....the more you know the more you understand! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Maxed Out" is a very informative book. By R. L. Watson It reveals the hidden, greedy, dirty little practices of big banks, mortgage companies, credit card companies, and credit bureaus. It helps the reader to actually see financial institutions as they really are. It can also help the reader to make better financial choices.

Foreclosures are hitting record highs; Americans are declaring bankruptcy at rates ten times that during the great Depression; more college students drop out because of debts than due to poor grades; reports of debtor suicides proliferate in the media. In other words, it's a great time to be in the banking business. *Maxed Out* takes us on a road trip that is sometimes hysterical and often horrifying: from Las Vegas to the Bible Belt, from the backwoods to inner cities, where the world's largest financial giants troll for their next victims. Welcome to a country populated by debt pirates, corporate predators, human credit card billboards, debt evangelists, megamillion-dollar spec homes, and, of course, trillions of dollars of easy credit. Combining startling facts with even more startling examinations of individuals, institutions, the government, and modern religion, James Scurlock separates the myths (there is "good debt" and "bad debt") from the harsh reality (corporations partner with colleges to target today's youth; credit reports are riddled with errors that will never be fixed; and death, for many of those in trouble, is the only way out). At a time when the financial industry posts ever-higher profits even as its clients drown in the flood of easy credit, Scurlock exposes very real, potentially disastrous systems and policies that are consuming millions of Americans. *Maxed Out* takes readers on a wickedly smart and entertaining tour of what one interviewee calls "the last taboo."

Unknown "The bone-chilling, bloodcurdling, hair-raising story of a country (guess which one?) that's up to its eyeballs in credit card debt." -- New York magazine "Maxed Out should be must-reading for every American who has one or more credit cards and is constantly being bombarded with offers for new ones." -- Newark Star-Ledger "After reading *Maxed Out*, you're going to want to shed your creditors and reacquaint yourself with the concept of cash." -- Barbara Ehrenreich "Smartly written and by turns funny, irreverent, serious, and angry, Scurlock's book...builds a persuasive case that deserves serious attention." -- The Christian Science Monitor "Maxed Out details, with alarming clarity, just how vulnerable many Americans are to the predatory methods banks and credit card companies employ to separate them from the money they make and to keep them paying on the money they're not making. People should know this stuff." -- Henry Rollins, host of IFC's *The Henry Rollins Show* About the Author James D. Scurlock studied at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania before dropping out to pursue an entrepreneurial venture and later a documentary film career. His first film, *Parents of the Year*, won numerous awards and was an official selection of more than twenty-five film festivals. His first feature-length documentary, *Maxed Out*, explored our culture of debt and won the Special Jury Prize at South by Southwest. His first book, a companion to the award-winning documentary, was nominated for the National MS Society's "Books for a Better Life" Award. He has written, primarily about the impending (and now realized) financial crisis, for *Slate*, *Newsweek*, *The Huffington Post*, and *AARP Magazine*, among others. He has also appeared on numerous programs, including *Nightline*, *The Today Show*, and *CNBC's Power Lunch*. Scurlock lives in Santa Monica, California.