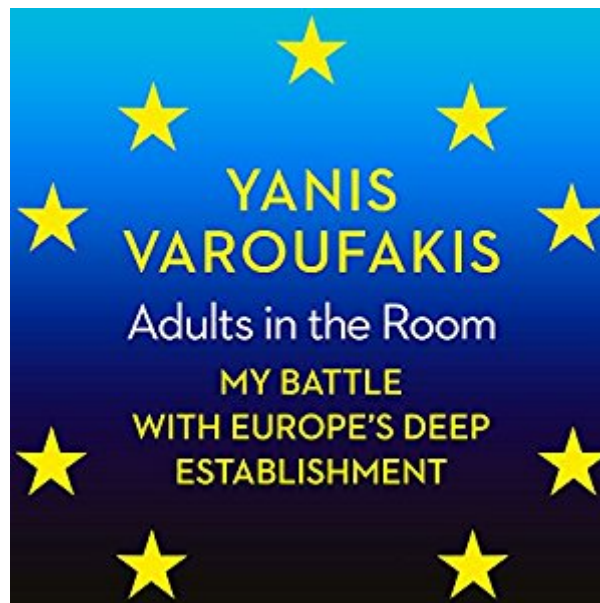




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# Adults In The Room: My Battle With Europe's Deep Establishment



## Synopsis

In *Adults in the Room*, Yanis Varoufakis exposes the shocking reality of how power is wielded behind the scenes at the EU - and argues that only radical reform can save it from collapse. Yanis Varoufakis became globally famous when he was elected finance minister of Greece with a specific mandate to say no to the EU: to reject the forced loans and crushing austerity forced upon his country by the Eurozone. The negotiations that ensued became one of the most spectacular and controversial battles in economic history. But no one actually knows what went on because Eurogroup discussions are held in secret. In this no-holds-barred account, Varoufakis reveals all: an extraordinary tale of brinkmanship and backstabbing that will shake the economic establishment to its foundations. The future of the EU now hangs in the balance. As Varoufakis argues, the only way it can survive is if the truth is known, ushering in a new era of radical transparency and accountability in Brussels. *Adults in the Room* is an urgent wake-up call to renew European democracy before it is too late.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 expose, 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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