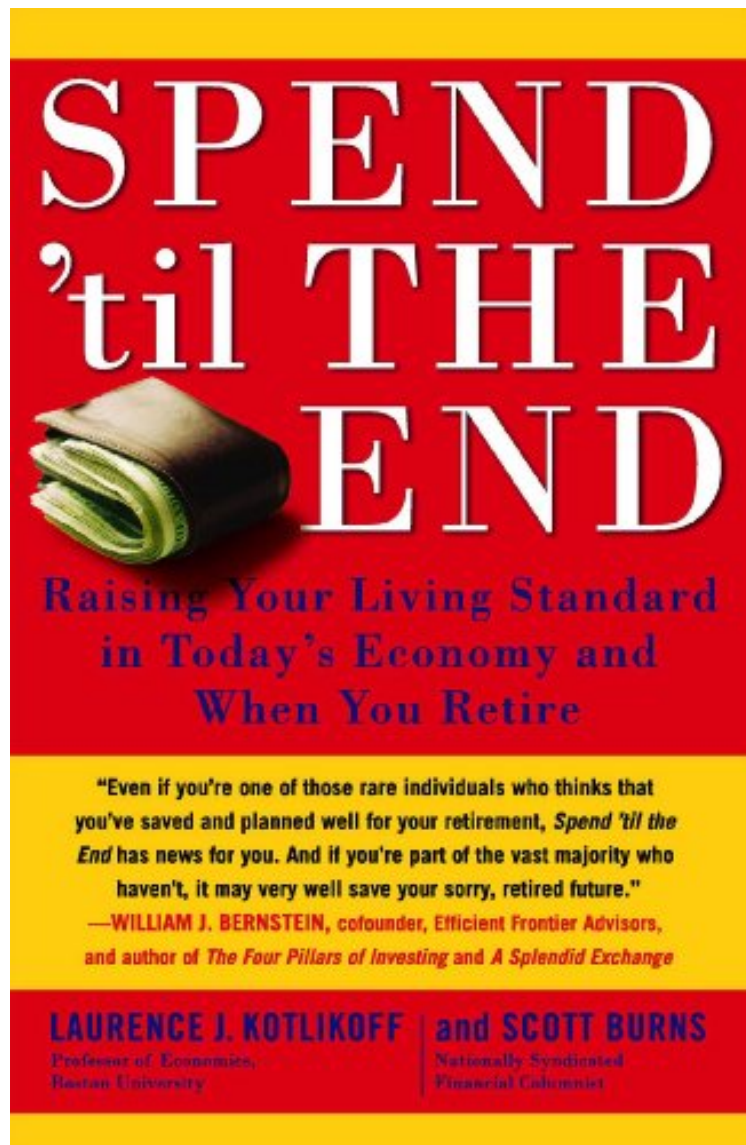


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Spend 'Til the End: The Revolutionary Guide to Raising Your Living Standard--Today and When You Retire

Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Scott Burns
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Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Scott Burns : Spend 'Til the End: The Revolutionary Guide to Raising Your Living Standard--Today and When You Retire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spend 'Til the End: The Revolutionary Guide to Raising Your Living Standard--Today and When You Retire:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy John Rickordvery quick read with a lot of good information!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Spend till the EndBy Joe BradfordThis is a good no-nonsense book for those planning retirement. It offers solid advice, good relevant examples and gives alternates in planning how to survive in comfort through retirement. While the book reads well and holds your attention it is also a great handbook to hold onto. It gives websites, addresses for agencies and resources to monitor your progress as you prepare for retirement income. The book is written in laymans language and has a friendly "folksy" approach, rather than a accountant's manual. Good solid advice.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 7 years old but still relevantBy BoltBite sized chapters with a behavior change or action in most.

Rich or poor, young or old, high school or college grad, this book, written by economist Laurence J. Kotlikoff and syndicated financial columnist Scott Burns, can change your life for the better! If you follow the advice in this book, it will raise your living standard (possibly by a lot), improve your lifestyle, and help you spend 'til the end. And it will completely transform your financial thinking, turning every bit of conventional financial wisdom on its head. If this sounds like a revolution in financial planning, you got it. So do The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Time, Consumer Reports, and other top publications that have been featuring the authors' economics-based "consumption smoothing" approach to financial planning. Spend 'Til the End substitutes economic wisdom for the "rules of dumb" that currently pass for financial advice. In the process it indicts the investment and financial-planning industry for giving most people saving and insurance targets that are much too high and then convincing them to invest in risky mutual funds and expensive insurance policies. The result is that most people are scrimping and saving during the years when they could be spending and enjoying their money -- and with no sure payoff. Easy to read, this book is packed with practical and often shocking advice on whether to work, how to pick a career, which job to take, where to live, what sort of house to buy, how much to save, when to retire, which kind of retirement account to use, whether to have kids, whether to divorce, when to take Social Security, how fast to spend down your assets in retirement, and how to invest.

From Publishers WeeklyKotlikoff and Burns (coauthors of The Coming Generational Storm) turn conventional retirement planning wisdom on its head in a feisty financial guide that questions the financial benefits of college and argues delaying filing for Social Security benefits. Unfortunately, many provocative insights are buried beneath fairly recondite economic analysis. Math-phobic readers may be unable to follow along as the authors couch their methods to maximize spending power in a number-heavy narrative with awkward case studies that fail to properly personalize the financial challenges new retirees may face. According to the authors, truly sophisticated planning is best left up to computer programs (such as the one Kotlikoff himself has developed and offers online at ESPlanner.com). Readers in search of a user-friendly primer might be put off, but there are nuggets of useful information to be mined; the authors efficiently address Roth IRAs and provide an eye-opening expose of the duplicity rampant in the personal finance industry. Intrepid readers able to navigate through the numbers will be rewarded; if they keep from drowning in the evidence. (June) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistIn The Coming Generational Storm (2005), the authors presented a dire warning about the consequences of the \$51 trillion debt America has amassed, forecasting huge tax obligations and the collapse of the U.S. economy as we know it. Here they take a more cheerful tack, guiding the would-be retiree on the most efficient ways to maintain a decent standard of living during the golden years. Eschewing the standard financial advice to use replacement income as a guide on how to save, they instead accomplish this by analyzing spending habits, utilizing consumption smoothing as a way to ensure that you neither starve yourself in old age nor end up with more money than you need by depriving yourself during your working years. Through a long series of useful examples, they dispel many of the myths surrounding whether one should pay off the mortgage early; begin taking Social Security at 70 or at 62; maximize savings in a Roth, 401(k), or regular IRA; or even hold mutual funds at all. These exercises are sure to create new rounds of discussion as they turn much of the conventional financial wisdom on its head. --David Siegfried "Even if you're one of those rare individuals who thinks that you've saved and planned well for your retirement, Spend 'Til the End has news for you. And if you're part of the vast majority who haven't, it may very well save your sorry, retired future." -- William J. Bernstein, cofounder, Efficient Frontier Advisors, and author of The Four Pillars of Investing and A Splendid Exchange