

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	XIII
Introduction	1
Part 1: The Basics	
1 What Is a Basic Income?	7
2 Who First Thought of the Idea?	10
3 Who Are Some Recent Supporters of a Basic Income?	13
4 So, Has a Basic Income Ever Been Tried?	15
5 What Are the Main Arguments in Favor of a Basic Income?	18
6 What Are the Main Arguments Against a Basic Income?	22
Part 2: How Would It Work?	
7 How Big Would It Be?	27

8	Would Rich People Receive a Basic Income?	30
9	No, Really, Why Are You Sending a Check to Billionaires Like Jeff Bezos?	34
10	Would a Basic Income Replace Existing Welfare Policies or Supplement Them?	37
11	How Much Would a Basic Income Cost?	39
12	How Could a Basic Income Be Funded?	43
13	Would a Basic Income Be Paid to Individuals or Households?	46
14	Would Children Receive a Basic Income?	48
15	Would Seniors Receive a Basic Income on Top of Social Security Benefits?	51
16	Would Immigrants and Noncitizens Receive a Basic Income?	53
17	Would a Basic Income Be Adjusted for Regional Differences in Cost of Living?	56
18	What's the Best Level to Implement a Basic Income—A Country? A City? Globally?	59
19	Would a Basic Income Be Subject to Asset or Wealth Tests?	63
20	Will People Be Able to Sell or Borrow Against Their Basic Income?	66
21	How Frequently Would a Basic Income Be Paid?	69
22	Which Agency Would Administer the Basic Income?	72

23 How Would a Basic Income Be Delivered to Beneficiaries?	74
-------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

Part 3: Common Alternatives

24 How Does a Basic Income Compare to Traditional Welfare Programs?	79
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

25 How Does a Basic Income Compare to In-Kind or Restricted Cash Transfers?	81
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

26 How Does a Basic Income Compare to Programs for the Unemployed and Disabled?	83
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

27 How Does a Basic Income Compare with Benefits for Workers, Like the Earned Income Tax Credit?	86
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

28 How Does a Basic Income Compare with Child Allowances or Child Tax Credits?	89
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

29 How Does a Basic Income Compare to a Negative Income Tax?	92
---------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

30 How Does a Basic Income Compare with Proposals Like Baby Bonds or a Basic Endowment?	96
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

31 How Does a Basic Income Differ from a Guaranteed Employment Program?	100
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

Part 4: Examples

32 Doesn't Alaska Have Something Like a Basic Income?	105
--------------------------------------------------------------	------------

33 Didn't the United States Run Some Experiments on the Basic Income Back in the 1970s?	108
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

34 What About Canada?	111
35 Has a Basic Income Ever Been Tried in the Developing World?	113
36 What Are Some Other Current Basic Income Experiments?	115
37 How Much Can We Really Learn about a Basic Income from Pilot Programs?	118
Part 5: Advantages	
38 Could a Basic Income Help Us Deal with Increasing Automation and Artificial Intelligence?	123
39 Could a Basic Income End Poverty?	126
40 Could a Basic Income Reduce Inequality?	130
41 Would a Basic Income Be Simpler and More Efficient?	132
42 Would a Basic Income Enhance Autonomy and Dignity?	135
43 Could a Basic Income Improve the Position of People of Color?	137
44 How Will a Basic Income Affect Families?	140
45 How Would a Basic Income Affect Communities?	143
46 How Would a Basic Income Affect the Problem of “Bullshit Jobs”?	146
47 Could a Basic Income Help Us to Address Environmental Problems?	148

Part 6: Objections

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 48 | Would a Basic Income Be Too Expensive? | 153 |
| 49 | Would a Basic Income Discourage People from Working? | 155 |
| 50 | Why Support People Who Could Work but Choose Not To? | 159 |
| 51 | Won't People Just Waste Cash? | 162 |
| 52 | What About the Children of Negligent, Mentally Ill, Drug-Addicted, or Alcoholic Parents? | 165 |
| 53 | Could a Basic Income Make the Poor Worse Off? | 167 |
| 54 | Will a Basic Income Increase Hostility to Immigrants? | 171 |
| 55 | Will a Basic Income Cause Inflation? | 172 |
| 56 | What Happens If Someone Wastes Their Basic Income and Is Still Hungry and Homeless? | 175 |
| 57 | What Would Stop a Basic Income from Getting Bigger and Bigger over Time? | 177 |

Part 7: The Politics of a UBI

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 58 | Is a Basic Income Politically Feasible? | 181 |
| 59 | Is the Basic Income a Socialist Idea? | 184 |
| 60 | What Do Conservatives Think about a Basic Income? | 186 |
| 61 | What Have Feminists Said about a Basic Income? | 189 |

62 What Do Progressives Think about a Basic Income?	192
63 What Do Libertarians Think about a Basic Income?	195
64 Is a Basic Income Likely to Be Implemented Anytime Soon?	198
65 Are There Any Organizations Advocating for a Basic Income?	201
66 Where Can I Learn More About a Basic Income?	203
NOTES	205
GLOSSARY	229
INDEX	233