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REVIEW OF "ANTITRADING" BY O. PLASTUN. FABULA PUBLISHING, 2025

Abstract

Book "Antitrading" by Oleksii Plastun is a bold, lively, well-illustrated but still critical and science-based examination of the trading industry and financial market, challenging widespread myths about making "easy money", technical analysis almighty, and the promises of financial heaven given by trading "gurus". Mixing personal trading experience and academic background, Plastun describes cognitive biases, psychological traps, and misleading narratives that lead traders to financial losses in the face of severe laws of market power, probability, and financial market theories, concepts, and hypotheses.

Keywords

antitrading, financial markets, trading myths, technical analysis, fundamental analysis, cognitive biases, behavioral finance

Oleksii Plastun's book "Antitrading" is a quintessence of the critical approaches and gaps in the trading industry, aimed at debunking myths and legends of "easy money" making on financial markets. Popular trading gaps, strategies implications, and misinformation techniques are described from the perspective of traditional academic concepts, especially behavioral finance.

The structure of the book reveals the abovementioned myth and misinformation techniques. In Chapter One, "What Is Trading and How Does It Really Work?" the author starts with the basics of trading and sets the stage for a critical analysis of its real-world mechanics. In Chapters Two and Three, the fundamental and technical analysis's predictive power was explored. Chapter Four is devoted to automated trading and trading robot strategies, evaluation of the algorithmic trading effectiveness, and reasoning why the bots do not guarantee the trader's profit. The role of cognitive biases from a behavioral finance perspective was shown in Chapter Five, giving an understanding of how human psychology undermines rational decision-making. Chapter Six, "The Infogypsy Phenomenon," critiques the rise of self-proclaimed trading gurus and the commercialization of financial advice. Finally, Chapter Seven concludes why traders are unlikely to make their dream million, supported by a sobering look at statistical realities and long-term outcomes for them.

A remarkable fact about this book is that its author is a professional trader who also has significant practical experience in the field, backed up by his academic background and financial market analyst activities.

In particular, Professor Plastun has studied and worked in trading for over 20 years, created trading robot strategies, and explored the field

from multiple angles. As a practitioner, he worked as a trader and investor in various financial markets and professionally analyzed market trends. As a scholar and researcher, he focused on the theoretical foundations of price forecasting in financial markets; his doctoral dissertation was dedicated specifically to these topics.

Despite the inclusion of a science background, theories, and statistical data, the language of the book is easy to understand and humorous; illustrations and interesting cases make complex financial concepts understandable without oversimplifying them.

This book takes a detailed look at the world of infoscams, misinformation, and trading fairy tales, unraveling how these misconceptions arise, spread, and are sustained, primarily at the expense of unsuspecting traders, highlighting psychological biases and incentives, and pushing traders into risky ventures.

A specific feature of the book is vivid practical examples, flashy success stories, and Hollywood portrayals. With real-world case studies, including dramatic events like the collapse of the well-known hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management (LTCM), the book illustrates how irrational behavior, even for well-recognized traders and Nobel Prize scientists, can lead to a crash.

The author reflects on how humankind has consistently been involved in the exploitation of greed and thrill: old-school casinos and betting houses changed by stock trading, sports wagering, and cryptocurrency speculation. In the gambling evolution, traders are facing even more immersive and accessible forms, like digital casinos and online exchanges. The book warns that reactive measures such as state gambling registries or bans on credit services only address the damage once it is done, driving underground gambling and flourishing decentralized technologies. Instead, the author proposes a proactive solution: education as a kind of intellectual “vaccine.” By informing, explaining, and critically analyzing the trading mechanisms and research-based information, readers can build resilience against impulsive behavior.

The book is valuable for students, aspiring traders, and anyone interested in financial literacy. Rather than promising success, it encourages skepticism, self-awareness, and a deeper understanding of market dynamics, providing a framework for critical thinking in finance.

The book is written in the Ukrainian language in Sumy, a Ukrainian city close to the Ukrainian-Russian border, during wartime. This makes it even more valuable.

A minor critical issue is that the book’s readership is quite limited due to its language. We sincerely hope that the author will not stop there, will take into account the reviews and potential readers from different countries of the world, will critically reflect on everything again, and translate and publish it in English.