Investment Banks, Hedge Funds, and Private Equity

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Synopsis

The dynamic environment of investment banks, hedge funds, and private equity firms comes to life in David Stowell’s introduction to the ways they challenge and sustain each other. Capturing their reshaped business plans in the wake of the 2007-2009 global meltdown, his book reveals their key functions, compensation systems, unique roles in wealth creation and risk management, and epic battles for investor funds and corporate influence. Its combination of perspectives “drawn from his industry and academic backgrounds” delivers insights that illuminate the post-2009 reinvention and acclimation processes. Through a broad view of the ways these financial institutions affect corporations, governments, and individuals, Professor Stowell shows us how and why they will continue to project their power and influence. Emphasizes the needs for capital, sources of capital, and the process of getting capital to those who need it. Integrates into the chapters ten cases about recent transactions, along with case notes and questions. Accompanies cases with spreadsheets for readers to create their own analytical frameworks and consider choices and opportunities.

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Customer Reviews
Great comprehensive book covering variety of topics for investment banks, hedge funds and private equity. Excellent balance of factual information and real world examples as to how the recent financial crisis has changed the industry. Service Co case is a great way to understand the fundamental concepts of valuation methods used by Investment banks to determine their “football fields”

This textbook does an outstanding job of breaking down investment banking, hedge funds, and PE and enables the reader to fully understand these industries. I found that every time I did not fully grasp a topic, an example would follow that would illustrate a real-life example, which enabled me to understand each chapter in the book. Even if you know your career path is not in banking or private equity, it is still vital to know how these industries operate. This book is written for someone to get that knowledge (it is obviously a must-ready for anyone going into banking, a hedge fund or PE firm). Additionally, this book does not read like a normal textbook. There are anecdotes throughout the book that make it easy to connect the dots of the subjects covered to important topics they have seen in the WSJ or the news. I am not going into banking but from reading this book I can say I know more about these industries than most of my fellow students who are. Furthermore, the author being a former practitioner in these industries makes the book very interesting. The cases and examples throughout the book could not have included the type of detail unless the author had significant experience. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in these subjects. I have already began referencing this book and know it will come in handy in the future.

This book is an excellent source for practical information in the fields of investment banking, hedge funds, and private equity. David Stowell is highly consistent between what he has written in the book and what he teaches and expects in the classroom. This text book is a great medium between academic research/integrity and a field professional’s knowledge/expertise. I rated the book as 4-star because it is difficult to read. It is not difficult because the material is complicated and difficult to understand. Rather it is difficult to read because the poor grammar/sentence structure and general lack of flow makes it nearly unbearable unless speed reading.

Highly recommended. David Stowell (the author) is a highly regarded professor at the Kellogg School of Management and is very well-versed on this topic, having decades of finance/investment banking experience before moving into academics. So it is no surprise that this is a great book on the subject. I was told it was one of the best books to learn about the investment management
world, and that certainly turned out to be true. The cases were particularly interesting.

I think this book would help individuals to learn investment banks, hedge funds, and private equity. And this book emphasizes the needs for capital, sources of capital, and the process of getting capital to those who need it. [...] 

I used this book for an introductory course on the financial services industry and I though that the book was pretty informative and elaborate regarding the theory related to Investment Banking and Financial services.

For those looking to enter the IB, Hedge fund, or PE industry, this textbook is a must-read. Even for those with experience, this textbook would be a great resource to answer any questions outside of your expertise. I agree with another reviewer in that this book doesn’t read like a textbook. The chapters and case studies provide really engaging examples of how practitioners think about and execute transactions.

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