

Handbook of Antitrust Economics edited by Paolo Buccirossi (The MIT Press 2008)

Paolo Buccirossi of the competition consulting firm LEAR has assembled an all-star team of 24 economists from the US and the EU¹ for a new Handbook of Antitrust Economics to examine some of the key economic issues facing competition policy makers. The Handbook is organized into seventeen chapters preceded by an introduction by the editor. The first five chapters cover virtually all aspects of the economics of merger policy. The next five chapters cover different aspects of cartel agreements and other horizontal and vertical agreements. Following chapters on abuse of market power and price discrimination, the volume concludes with five more specific case studies of competition issues affecting network industries, intellectual property rights, two-sided markets, auction markets, and state aid controls.

The chapters represent a sophisticated, but even-handed look, at the issues in question and include an overview of the existing literature. Controversies and disagreements tend to be highlighted and discussed openly rather than papered over or ignored. Most of the chapters contain basic mathematics, but few are beyond the capabilities of an experienced legal practitioner in the field.

Issues of monopolization and abuse of dominance are relatively underplayed given the more thorough treatment of the other issues covered in the collection. Despite this minor caveat, this is a most valuable volume as both a starting place and a review of key issues in antitrust economics.

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<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=11509&mode=toc>.