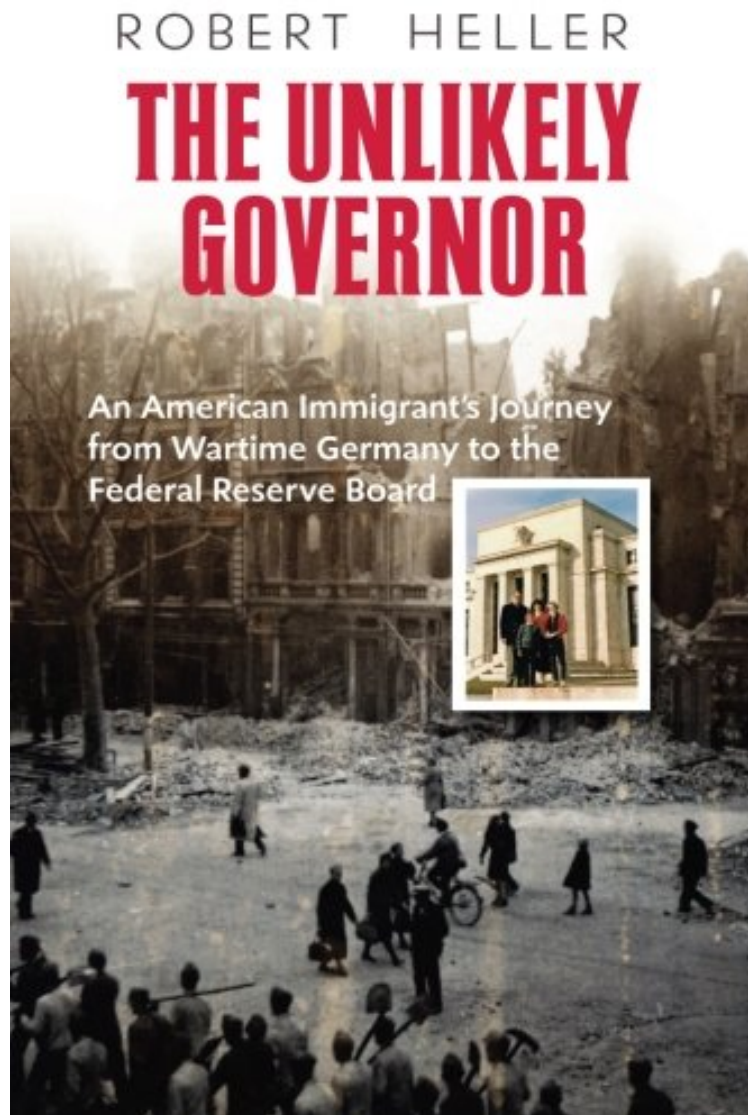


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The Unlikely Governor: An American Immigrants Journey from Wartime Germany to the Federal Reserve Board

Robert Heller

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A true American odyssey, Robert Heller chronicles the journey from his childhood in wartime Germany to the United States and his career that led him to be a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board and the President of VISA U.S.A. In this entertaining and spell-binding book, he vividly describes the dramatic events of his childhood during World War II as he and his mother survive in the cellars and caves of Germany, while his father leads a rather uneventful life as a translator for the German army. After coming to the U.S., he sets out on a career as a professor at UCLA and then occupies leadership positions at the International Monetary Fund and Bank of America. President Reagan appoints him to the powerful Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He takes us behind the scenes at the Fed as he serves alongside with Paul Volcker and Alan Greenspan, revealing what went on behind closed doors in the formulation of U.S. monetary policy and during the banking crisis. He chronicles his return to the private sector, detailing the confused scenes as the credit card giant VISA is torn between chaos and order during his challenging service at the helm of that organization. The book concludes with an insiders candid and cogent observations of Americas boardrooms and presents numerous lessons learned and obstacles overcome during the course of a most successful career.

About the AuthorRobert Heller was born in Cologne, Germany shortly after the beginning of World War II. After an early education in Germany, he came to America in 1960 to study at the now defunct Parsons College in Iowa, the University of Minnesota and the University of California at Berkeley. He earned his Ph.D. degree in economics at Berkeley in 1965. In the same year, he began his teaching career at UCLA and subsequently served as chairman of the Economics Department of the University of Hawaii. In 1974, he became the Chief of the Financial Studies Division of the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. Four years later, he joined Bank of America in San Francisco as a Senior Vice President and Director of International Economic Research. President Reagan appointed him in 1986 as a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC. He served as the Administrative Governor and as Chairman of the Committee for Bank Supervision and Regulation. He returned to the private sector in 1989, first as Executive Vice President at VISA International and then as President and CEO of VISA U.S.A. Afterwards, he was a Director and Executive Vice President of the Fair Isaac Corporation. He has served as a director of numerous public and private corporations, not-for-profit associations, educational organizations and international institutions. A prolific writer, he is the author of four books that have been translated into several languages and hundreds of articles in the popular and scientific press. He is a frequent guest on CNBC and has appeared on all major television networks. He and his family live in the San Francisco Bay area.