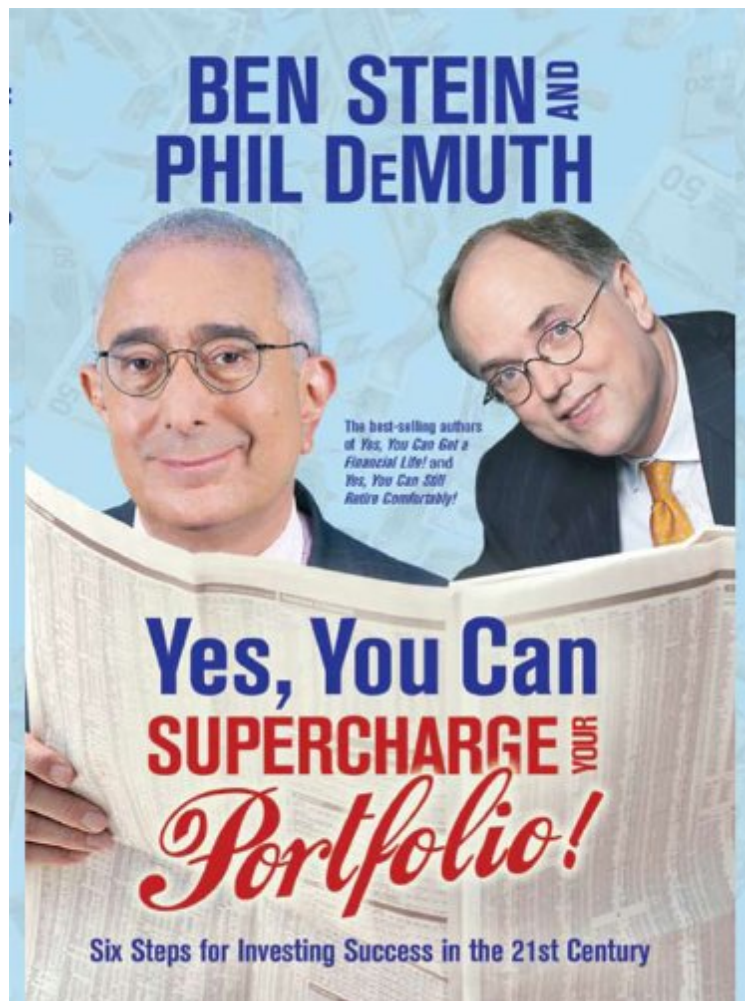


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## Yes, You Can Supercharge Your Portfolio!: Six Steps for Investing Success in the 21st Century

Ben Stein

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**Ben Stein : Yes, You Can Supercharge Your Portfolio!: Six Steps for Investing Success in the 21st Century** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yes, You Can Supercharge Your Portfolio!: Six Steps for Investing Success in the 21st Century:

53 of 55 people found the following review helpful. Two books in oneBy ChadThis is like two books in one. Depending on how you approach the financial markets, it's very likely at least one of them will help you a great deal. Maybe because I retired at 56 after a perfectly ordinary job with a negligible pension, people ask me about investing. A week ago, I was asked by someone with more money than I what percentage of his portfolio he should invest in international stocks. My answer was that he should read the first 60 pages of this book (what I call "Book 1"

out of 2). He wasn't asking the right question(s). It is apparent that very few people know how to diversify their portfolios properly. ("Properly" to me means getting the return you require for the least volatility and risk.) The first 60 pages explain this in easy to understand language and provide lots of useful examples. In fact, I expect many people will latch onto one of the example portfolios and live more happily ever after. For people who really want detail, this isn't the right book - I suggest Roger Gibson's Asset Allocation (a new edition is just out, but be warned that if it's like the third edition, it is much more difficult reading than Supercharge). "Book 2", the other two-thirds of Supercharge Your Portfolio, discusses how to construct a proper portfolio that meets the reader's individual needs (vs. the generic portfolios of "Book 1"). This is more complicated, as you'd expect, and requires a tool. The book uses the Quantext tool, QPP, for its examples. Armed with the book and the tool (I did the free trial and now have it on order - I used to rely on a weaker tool on Fidelity's web site), I expect to be able to take my current portfolio, use my investing preferences, and improve my portfolio to perform at least a little better with less volatility. Remember, I depend on my portfolio for retirement. Two more notes, sorry for the long review. This book does not address how to determine what your individual needs are - my current favorite here is Lucia's Ready, Set . . . Retire! However, Supercharge DOES encourage you to combine mutual funds and ETFs with individual stocks, which may help those who find mutual funds too boring to become both more successful while being adequately entertained. The content is good overall and the content of "Book 1" is excellent. That said, this book seems less tightly written than the authors' earlier books and many of the analogies are downright awful. I will continue to recommend Supercharge to my friends, anyway. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By Crash and Burn This is a quick read, but deserves a couple of readings, anyway. I liked how they start with a core portfolio, supercharge it with funds or stocks, then use fixed income instruments to reduce the volatility. They even go farther and show how to create a stock only portfolio. I've read a lot of Geoff Considine's articles on Seeking Alpha, and he addresses the problem of single company risk in portfolios. Geoff also mentions that you can use leveraged mutual funds or ETFs instead of individual funds to increase your portfolio return. I wish the book had addressed leveraged funds and/or ETFs. 32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Stuff that every investor should know By Geoff Considine First, let me acknowledge that I am not an unbiased reviewer. I am the author of the portfolio management software used for the examples in this book (more information at [...]) That said... It is hard to believe but it has been about two years or so since I first sent Phil DeMuth a review copy of Quantext Portfolio Planner (QPP). Since then, he has become an avid user and I have had the pleasure to get to know Phil. We have spent quite a few hours discussing the key issues that investors and advisors need to understand, as well as how modern tools like forward-looking Monte Carlo analysis can dramatically improve how the vast majority of investors operate. We both believe passionately that investors are missing the most important piece of knowledge to effectively manage their money: taking a portfolio-focused approach to money management rather than trying to pick the next hot fund or stock. I was thrilled when Ben Stein and Phil decided to write a book about this topic---and especially because Quantext Portfolio Planner is used heavily in the book. If you want a clear and well-written approach to how to use modern methods to manage a portfolio, read this book! This book will be valuable to those who already use QPP as well as to the interested investor who simply wants to understand the best methods for managing his or her portfolio. The key issues revolve around using standard financial metrics to see if your portfolio is well-diversified and whether you are getting as much return as possible for the risk that you take on. Many investors think that they are diversified because they buy lots of different funds. Not so! Rather than just buying a 'pie chart' allocation, this book explains how investors and advisors can rationally construct their best portfolios. Note: I have written a much more detailed review that is published on SeekingAlpha:[...]

Most investors spend their time worrying about selecting individual stocks and mutual funds: big mistake! Modern Portfolio Theory---developed in 1952 by economics Nobel Prize winner Harry Markowitz---shows that it's more important to focus on how our securities interact as a whole. Astonishingly, most investors---including many professionals---still run their investment accounts the same way people did back when How Much Is That Doggie In the Window was played on the Hit Parade. It's time to apply what we've learned in financial economics over the past 50 years to bring your portfolio into the rock-n-roll era. Armed with a computer, you, the investor, can use sophisticated tools to analyze your holdings---tools that would have been the envy of the biggest money managers only a decade ago. First among these is the Monte Carlo simulator: the better mousetrap that investors have been waiting for. With their trademark wit, Ben Stein and Phil DeMuth show you how your current portfolio is radically underdiversified, costing you money. They offer step-by-step instructions to supercharge it across a variety of investment situations to get you the best risk-adjusted returns.

About the Author Ben Stein can be seen talking about finance on Fox TV news every week. He has written about finance for Barron's and The Wall Street Journal for decades and contributes regularly to the AARP's Modern Maturity (now AARP: The Magazine). He was one of the chief busters of the junk bond frauds of the 1980s, has been a long-time critic of corporate executives' self-dealing, and has written several self-help books about personal finance. Phil DeMuth is an investment

psychologist with a longstanding interest in the stock market. He has written for The Wall Street Journal and Barron's, as well as Human Behavior and Psychology Today. His opinions have been quoted on theStreet.com and Fortune Magazine. He is president of Conservative Wealth Management in Los Angeles.