



## **JIM HARTUNG — Bio and Book Information**

Jim has nearly 40 years' experience as a systems engineer, manager, and executive at Boeing, United Technologies, and Rockwell International.

He has developed a plan to improve America's political system and address our most serious problems using systems engineering, the process engineers use to develop complex products such as aircraft and spacecraft.

Jim's website [JimHartung.com](http://JimHartung.com) summarizes his plan. Jim's book *Rational Tax Reform* describes his plan in detail, using tax reform as an example.

### **America's political system is broken**

The Covid-19 pandemic and the George Floyd killing have exposed many problems: weaknesses in our healthcare system, the consequences of racial injustice, the pain and suffering caused by economic inequality, the divisive and disabling effect of hyper-partisan politics, and the risk of doing too little to address climate change and prevent nuclear war.

These problems are not new or unique. They are the tip of an immense iceberg of problems that have been festering and growing for many years. We need deep, structural change to eliminate the root causes of these problems.

### **Systems engineering is the change we need**

Systems engineering is a nonpartisan process that has been used in science, technology, industry and business for over 80 years. It considers the needs of all stakeholders and uses facts and data to optimize a product or system. It seeks to balance opposing interests, conflicting objectives, and many constraints.

Jim has developed a plan to use systems engineering to bridge the partisan divide and improve America's political system. While developing his plan, Jim discovered a critical flaw in how Congress is organized. Visit Jim's website to learn how Congress can fix this flaw, become a much more effective organization, and expeditiously address America's most urgent problems.

### **Praise for *Rational Tax Reform* and the systems engineering process**

“*Rational Tax Reform* is clear and lucid. It succeeds beautifully in demonstrating how rationalizing one part of the system (the tax system) can be the key to addressing many other vexing problems such as health care, social inequality, and climate change. I see lots of opportunities to deploy the same SE approach to other social systems.”

— **Dr. Saif Benjaafar**, Distinguished McKnight Professor and Head, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University of Minnesota College of Engineering and Science

“I am seriously impressed with this book and the proposed tax reform. I like the practical, nonpartisan systems engineering approach to tax writing. I strongly agree with the tax reform proposal except for a few small differences. Now let's get these ideas to tax writers, federal and state.”

— **T. R. Reid**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *A Fine Mess: A Global Quest for a Simpler, Fairer, and More Efficient Tax System* and *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*

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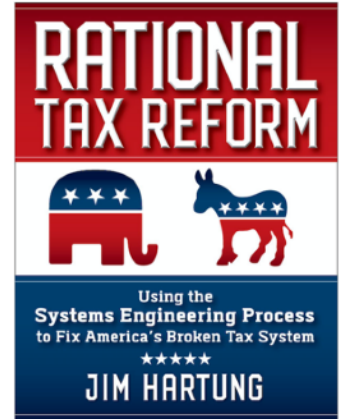
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## RATIONAL TAX REFORM - The Book

Jim wrote *Rational Tax Reform* to show how systems engineering can be used to develop practical, nonpartisan solutions for complex social, economic, environmental, and political problems. He chose tax reform to illustrate this process, since the tax system is complex and a root cause for many societal problems.

In *Rational Tax Reform*, Jim uses systems engineering to develop a comprehensive tax reform proposal that:

- Balances the federal budget, funds universal health care, and restores Social Security to financial health without increasing the burden on taxpayers
- Simplifies the tax code and makes it fairer by eliminating all itemized deductions and most tax credits, tax preferences, and loopholes
- Stimulates economic growth by decreasing tax rates and replacing the corporate income tax with a more efficient value-added tax
- Includes features to control government spending, address climate change, reduce political corruption, improve the education system, and increase infrastructure investment



The proposed tax reform is only one example of many possible alternatives—yet it clearly illustrates how systems engineering could enable rational, enlightened, and nonpartisan tax reform.

*Rational Tax Reform* also describes how systems engineering can be used to address other problems in addition to tax reform. Systems engineering can be used by anyone to address any problem, but it is most useful for addressing complex problems where the best solution is not obvious.

This book was written before the Covid-19 pandemic and the George Floyd killing. Nevertheless, lawmakers and policymakers can use systems engineering to develop “systems solutions” for difficult and interrelated problems such as those illuminated by these events.

### About the Author

Jim has been involved with systems engineering for a wide range of projects. As Director of Systems Engineering and Integration for the International Space Station electric power system, he participated in one of the most complex and successful systems engineering activities ever undertaken.

As Director of Energy Systems for Rocketdyne, he led development of advanced energy systems and technologies.

Jim started his career working for Admiral Rickover on the design and operational support of nuclear power plants for submarines and aircraft carriers.

The picture on the right shows some of the systems, programs, and technologies Jim worked on during his career.

After retiring, Jim developed his plan to use systems engineering to improve America’s political system and address our most difficult problems. He wrote the book *Rational Tax Reform* and developed the website [JimHartung.com](http://JimHartung.com) to describe his plan.

