

this edition of the book. The chances are that you will have an easier time teaching the course; the students will be happier; and your teaching evaluations would improve a notch or two.

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FLOYD A. BEAMS, JOHN A. BROZOVSKY and CRAIG D. SHOULDERS, *Advanced Accounting, Seventh Edition* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000, pp. ix, 882).

This review addresses three general areas: organization and presentation; pedagogy and end-of-chapter materials; and writing style and terminology.

Organization and presentation address the chapter organization and the appearance of the material. The text contains material addressing five topics typically covered in advanced financial accounting textbooks:

1. Mergers, acquisitions and consolidated financial statements (chapters 1-12),
2. International operations (transactions and financial statements) (chapters 13-14),
3. Partnership accounting (chapters 16-17),
4. Government and not-for-profit entities (chapters 19-21) and
5. Miscellaneous financial accounting topics (i.e., segment and interim reporting, financially distressed corporations).

Some competitors have reduced the number of consolidation chapters and increased the number of international operations chapters.

This book is printed in black and white with shaded boxes to highlight consolidation work sheet eliminations. The authors incorporate many

tables to help organize and present the material. An appropriate number of graphics are also integrated into the discussion to help students better understand the text. Learning objectives at the beginning of each chapter and the use of margin notes to highlight important points are additions to the text that could improve student understanding.

With regard to pedagogy, the authors present the material in an order similar to other texts but the level of coverage in this text is very thorough. For example, the authors provide a discussion of many different approaches to the consolidated financial statement material. As with most texts, students are introduced to both purchase and pooling of interest. However, the authors extend the coverage by presenting complete equity, incomplete equity, and cost methods of accounting for investments and the associated procedures for the preparation of consolidated financial statements. Thus, students should readily understand that there are numerous ways that management can maintain investment information. On the other hand, some students may become so burdened by all of the alternatives that they fail to see the general picture.

A text problem that is shared by all advanced accounting books in that two of the major topics are undergoing significant changes. Both FASB and GASB are currently completing deliberations that will result in significant changes to the presentation of the consolidated and government and not-for-profit financial statements.

End-of-chapter materials seem to reasonably address the subject matter. The authors have developed items that adequately represent the

topics in each chapter. Faculty members who adopt the text should not have difficulty selecting a variety of problems. A change that would make end-of-chapter materials easier to use pertains to the publisher. End-of-chapter materials are printed in a smaller type than the chapter's body. As a result, end-of-chapter materials are more difficult to read, particularly from a distance.

Finally, the authors write in a clear, professional manner. They should be commended for not using the conversational writing style that has gained favor in some texts. Students are provided with a good example of professional writing in addition to a thorough explanation of advanced accounting issues. On the other hand, the authors may be outdated in their

terminology. The two most noticeable examples are the use of minority interest and entity concept as part of the consolidated financial statement discussion. FASB has replaced these terms with noncontrolling interest and economic unit concept. The authors should revise the wording so that it is more contemporary.

Overall, the text is well written, current and thorough. The book serves the needs of faculty and good students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, however, some average-to-marginal students may have difficulty with the presentation of multiple alternatives to some topics.

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