Genius versus capital: eighteenth-century theories of genius and Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations'

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Main content

Abstract:

Adam Smith proposed that political economy should be based on capital and the division of labor in 'The Wealth of Nations.' The treatise successfully overturned the belief that genius and the distribution of intellectual prowess was the basis for political and economic order. Writers on genius in the mid- to late-18th century propounded theories that put genius in the forefront of philosophical, aesthetic, political and economic developments.

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The Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith is truly an epic classic in our time. This 1000+ page is obviously not that easy to read. (Especially in the part that he discusses Silver, etc.) The social and economic information is fascinating, and there are many little treasures to be read, for example, how unpopular bankers were even in the 18th Century by paying customers out large sums of money in pennies to prevent a run on the bank! For those who have a professional interest in social, economic and political life this of course is a "must" read, however, for the lay person I would not recommend you bother with this but instead pick up a general book on the subject that maybe outlines Adam Smith and his writings in todays language. PDF | On Jun 1, 1994, Z. Tenger and others published Genius versus Capital: Eighteenth-Century Theories of Genius and Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations' | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Genius versus Capital: Eighteenth-Century Theories of Genius and Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations. June 1994. Modern Language Quarterly 55(2):169-189. Join ResearchGate to discover and stay up-to-date with the latest research from leading experts in Genius and many other scientific topics. Join for free. ResearchGate iOS App. First published in 1776, Adam Smith's groundbreaking theories provide a recipe for national prosperity that has not been bettered since. It assumes no prior knowledge of its subject, and over 200 years on, still provides valuable lessons on the fundamentals of economics. The Wealth of Nations is an economics book like no other. First published in 1776, Adam Smith's groundbreaking theories provide a recipe for national prosperity...
that has not been bettered since. It assumes no prior knowledge of its subject, and over 200 years on, still provides valuable lessons on the fundamentals of economics. A true genius then this book is for you. It is SCARY how many situations Adam Smith predicted - and it is sad how little things have changed as far as the wealthy and the poor.