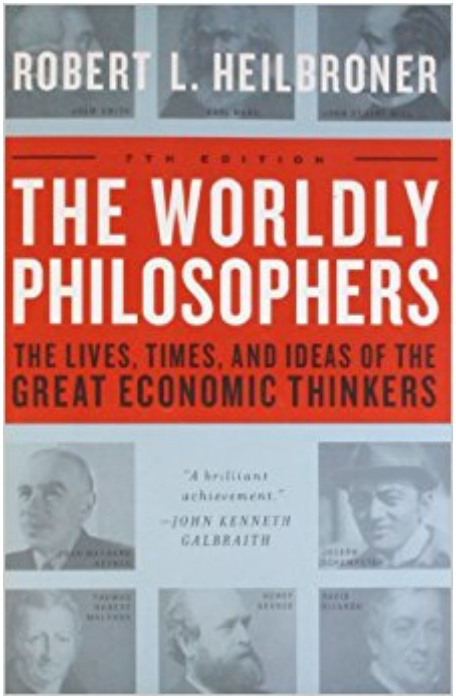
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The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times And Ideas Of The Great Economic Thinkers, Seventh Edition



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Synopsis

The bestselling classic that examines the history of economic thought from Adam Smith to Karl MarxÃ¢â ¬â •Ã¢â ¬Å“all the economic lore most general readers conceivably could want to know, served up with a flourishÃ¢â ¬Â• (The New York Times).The Worldly Philosophers not only enables us to see more deeply into our history but helps us better understand our own times. In this seventh edition, Robert L. Heilbroner provides a new theme that connects thinkers as diverse as Adam Smith and Karl Marx. The theme is the common focus of their highly varied ideasÃ¢â ¬â •namely, the search to understand how a capitalist society works. It is a focus never more needed than in this age of confusing economic headlines. In a bold new concluding chapter entitled Ã¢â ¬Å“The End of the Worldly Philosophy?Ã¢â ¬Â• Heilbroner reminds us that the word Ã¢â ¬Å“endÃ¢â ¬Â• refers to both the purpose and limits of economics. This chapter conveys a concern that todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s increasingly Ã¢â ¬Å“scientificÃ¢â ¬Â• economics may overlook fundamental social and political issues that are central to economics. Thus, unlike its predecessors, this new edition provides not just an indispensable illumination of our past but a call to action for our future.

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Ã¢â ¬Å“A brilliant achievement.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •John Kenneth GalbraithÃ¢â ¬Å“If ever a book answered a crying need, this one does. Here is all the economic lore most general readers conceivably could want to know, served up with a flourish by a man who writes with immense vigor and skill, who has a rare gift for simplifying complexities.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“Robert Heilbroner's The Worldly Philosophers is a living classic, both because he

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The Worldly Philosophers is a bestselling classic that not only enables us to see more deeply into our history but helps us better understand our own times. In this seventh edition, Robert L. Heilbroner provides a new theme that connects thinkers as diverse as Adam Smith and Karl Marx. The theme is the common focus of their highly varied ideas -- namely, the search to understand how a capitalist society works. It is a focus never more needed than in this age of confusing economic headlines.In a bold new concluding chapter entitled "The End of the Worldly Philosophy?" Heilbroner reminds us that the word "end" refers to both the purpose and limits of economics. This chapter conveys a concern that today's increasingly "scientific" economics may overlook fundamental social and political issues that are central to economics. Thus, unlike its predecessors, this new edition provides not just an indispensable illumination of our past but a call to action for our future.

This book will take you on a whirlwind tour of a selected subset of economic thinkers from the past centuries through today. If you don't already have an in depth knowledge of economics history, prepare to change how you view money and growth. Even if you are experienced in economic history, the final chapter presents a moving goal for economics within the coming decades.

Definitely enjoyed finishing this book (would have said reading it but it was a difficult read at times). I had to re-read chapters twice sometimes just to make sure I got the point. But after reading this book, I have a good foundational understanding on how the "free market" came to be here in the US.This book was recommended by Robert Kiyosaki (Rich Dad,Poor Dad) which is why i bought it in the first place.

I initially bought this book for a first-year economics class I was taking in college back in the early 1980s; I wanted to see how the author had updated it. He explains in as simple language as possible the lives and ideas of the great economists; he gives an uncomplicated explanation of supply and demand without going into tedious detail or any graphs. It's economics for a liberal-arts person without the mathematics. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in or thinking about investing for personal or professional reasons.

This should be required reading at every high school in the country. I didn't get to read it the first time until I was in college and I wish I had been introduced to basic economics at an earlier stage in my education. Our country would be a better place to live if our leaders had at least some understanding of human nature and how it drives the economic engine. Perhaps then they would be less inclined to interfere with the natural order.

Just about the best introduction to the history of economic thought. Refreshing lack of jargon. Ideal for the bright eyed and bushy tailed layperson.

This is a very readable and insightful book. It is so readable that I feel I need to reread it and outline the key points made by the author. The authors prose is outstanding. I would have appreciated a discussion of the life and times and thinking of F A Hayek.

Philosophy is pretty difficult to read, at least in my opinion when it comes to the metaphysical side. However, Heilbroner breaks down all these philosophers ideas and makes you understand in the most basic form. I love philosophy and if you do too, then you'll admire this book. You have to remember to be open-minded before you read it because it will that much more fulfilling.

this book is a great, accessible way to catch up on economic theory. it was required reading in my high school, and i think it should be required reading for every adult.

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