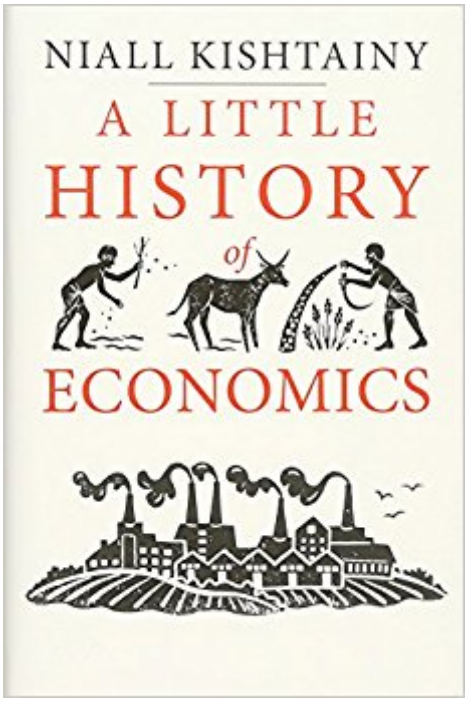
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A Little History Of Economics (Little Histories)



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Synopsis

A lively, inviting account of the history of economics, told through events from ancient to modern times and the ideas of great thinkers in the field What causes poverty? Are economic crises inevitable under capitalism? Is government intervention in an economy a helpful approach or a disastrous idea? The answers to such basic economic questions matter to everyone, yet the unfamiliar jargon and math of economics can seem daunting. This clear, accessible, and even humorous book is ideal for young readers new to economics and for all readers who seek a better understanding of the full sweep of economic history and ideas. Economic historian Niall Kishtainy organizes short, chronological chapters that center on big ideas and events. He recounts the contributions of key thinkers including Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, and others, while examining topics ranging from the invention of money and the rise of agrarianism to the Great Depression, entrepreneurship, environmental destruction, inequality, and behavioral economics. The result is a uniquely enjoyable volume that succeeds in illuminating the economic ideas and forces that shape our world.

Book Information

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"Economic theories count among the principal ideas that defined the modern world, yet the origins of the market forces that govern our lives can all too often seem distant and opaque. Enter Niall Kishtainy, who in A Little History of Economics has condensed 2000 years of thought down to 250 highly readable pages. . . . A whistle-stop introduction to the great works and thinkers of each

age,this is a clear and accessible primer."Ã¢â ¬â •Laura Garmeson, Financial TimesÃ¢â ¬Å“A uniquely enjoyable volume that succeeds in illuminating the economic ideas and forces that shape our world.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •800-CEO-READ"A pleasurable and easy way to become familiar with important economic ideas such as comparative advantage, unemployment, aggregate demand, inflation, and income inequality."Ã¢â ¬â •Foreign AffairsÃ¢â ¬Å“In 40 short . . . easily digestible bites, Kishtainy leads readers through a history of how people have thought about and tried to understand how economic systems work.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Choice"Those who refuse to learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. Economics can help guide policy in a sensible direction; but the misuse of economics has also left individuals, companies, and countries in ruin.Ã Â To understand what economics has got rightÃ¢â ¬â •and to avoid repeating its mistakesÃ¢â ¬â •read this book."Ã¢â ¬â •Simon Johnson, Professor at MIT Sloan and author ofÃ Â 13 Bankers"A deft, highly readable history of economics, full of humanity. You'll learn a lotÃ Â Ã¢â ¬â • I did."Ã¢â ¬â •Tim Harford, author ofÃ Â MessyÃ Â andÃ Â The Undercover Economist"This book is an intellectual treasure trove for anyone interested in history, big ideas, and the role that economic thinking has played in both for more than 2000 years."Ã¢â ¬â •Charles Wheelan, author ofÃ Â Naked Economics"Many people wish they knew more about economic ideasÃ¢â ¬â •but not enough, apparently, to endure the discomfort they imagine that reading about them would entail. Niall KishtainyÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ Â A Little History of EconomicsÃ Â solves their problem: its brief, charming vignettes read effortlessly, yet faithfully capture the deep insights that have so profoundly transformed how we think about our world."Ã¢â ¬â •Robert H. Frank, author ofÃ Â The Economic Naturalist"A great introduction to economics for beginners. This book is punchy and fun, and yet thorough in explaining what economists have contributed to our understanding of the world."Ã¢â ¬â •Robert Shiller, Nobel Laureate in Economics

Niall Kishtainy, former economic policy advisor to the UK government and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, is guest teacher, department of economic history, London School of Economics, and author of The Economics Book and Economics in Minutes. He lives in London.

Ok, this is not a book one would teach if one were teaching economics, but, when teaching history or sociology, this would be a good introductory book about economics. Written in a "easy-breezy" style, the historical examples sometimes veered into algorithms that needed to be read several times.One key point of the book...the discussion of Joan Robinson’s books on economics and then this quotation: "The purpose of studying economics is...to learn how to avoid being deceived by

economist." Now that was the high point gleaned from 241 pages of reading about economics.

This book brought together and clarified some of the theories and Thoughts of economics that I have been exposed To over the past several decades.

Provides a powerful understanding of the evolution of ideas in Economics. The breadth of the Economists and topics is breathtaking.

Simple and interesting.

Very good resume of economicd. Gift to a young aspiring Grand Chile.

Amazing book! Easy and fun to read. Now that is rare for something on economics...

A Little History of Economics by Niall Kishtainy is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in early March.This book offers not only info on economics, but issues of entitlement, usefulness, the 'expense' of making one choice and not another one (scarcity opportunity cost), allocation of resources, consumption of goods & resources, the history of economics (from ancient Greece and Mesopotamia to the modern era), the definition of marginal revenue, Victorian leisure class, income distribution, entrepreneurship and capitalism, and the mending of one's social life and their personal economy - all with chapters that are highlighted with impactful, simple woodcut illustrations.

I loved this book. Niall Kishtany uses plain language to tell the reader the history of economic thought and its implications for society. He uses analogies well to make himself understood. He also appears objective, not necessarily expounding his own position but telling what consensus appears to be. I had recently read Economic Thought by Heinz D. Kurz, and I liked Kishtany's book much more. I even stopped reading the Kurz book half way through, giving it a two-star rating. If you want to read a great book on economics that doesn't read like a textbook, then I recommend Kishtany's book.Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of this book from Netgalley for review purposes.

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