



The Making of Economic Society

Robert L. Heilbroner, William S. Milberg

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For thirty-five years "The Making of Economic Society" has taught us how to fit the times in which we have been living into the drama of its title. No easy assurances or baleful prophecies emerge from this classic text. What the reader gains is an understanding of the possibilities, good and bad, for the making of economic society in the years ahead.

The Making of Economic Society Details

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From Reader Review The Making of Economic Society for online ebook

Matias Fernandez says

MOES serves as a gateway to economic thinking. It's short, easy-to-read, and brilliant, simply brilliant. Many critics suggest that the book is not as in depth as it should be, but that's the whole point. It implants a template of questions in the reader's mind (some attached with very general answers), and allows the reader to search for the truth on his own.

I strongly suggest you read this book before diving into any other book in the broad field of Economics.

Sahar says

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Alan Mauldin says

I'd give this 4.5. It's a quick, but not necessarily easy (at least for an English-lit major who had one economics class in college that I was mostly stoned out of my gourd during), read that takes us from hunter-gather economies through serfdom, the beginnings of the market economy, the industrial revolution/s up to the present problem of growing wealth inequality that is both evident within individual countries and the world as a whole.

Dennis says

<http://pro-libertate.net/20141013/248...>

Waseem Naser says

A brilliant book for beginners in the foundations of Economics.

Giacomo Casanova says

This book is simply amazing from an education point of view. I gave it four stars just because there are parts of the book where the writing gets pretty dry. Overall, this is an amazing compendium of the economics history of the capitalist world. This is a great primer for anyone who is interested in later reading those historical works that are comprised of volumes and volumes.

Ian Colby says

I'll eventually re-read the book. I remember it being very important not only to my idea of economics, but to my idea of the world. Probably the most important book I read as an undergraduate.

Walter says

This little book is an excellent introduction to Economics by Robert Heilbroner, one of the best economic historians of the middle of the 20th Century. In it, Heilbroner writes about the history of Western society from the vantage point of economics, and by doing so he introduces the reader to the major principles of economic theory. Heilbroner starts with the ancient world and discusses economic history in a way that is eminently readable and enjoyable. He avoids the vices of most modern historians who read modern values and social systems into the past, but rather Heilbroner is careful to explain the various systems that shaped society in the past, such as religion, politics, culture and other factors. Heilbroner also discussed at length the major economic systems of mankind, the traditional, the capitalistic and the command economy. His treatment is very thorough but understandable, and the reader walks away feeling like he truly understands how each of these economic systems work.

Overall I was thoroughly impressed with this work, although there were a couple of things that prevented me from giving this a 5 star rating. Firstly, Heilbroner's treatment of the Soviet economy under Stalin was a bit too apologetic in my mind. This is understandable, since Heilbroner defended the position of the Church in the Medieval economy and in other ways sought to avoid passing judgement on people or institutions. Still, his explanation of the misery brought about by Stalin in the 1920s and 30s reminded me of Walter Duranty, who in the 1930s commented about Stalin's massacre of millions of Ukrainians during collectivization, "well, in order to make an omelette one must break a few eggs!" Secondly, Heilbroner's treatment of economic development in the Third World was lacking in my opinion. Specifically, Heilbroner fell into the position of many scholars of the 1950s and 60s who blamed Third World poverty on overpopulation as the root of all development evils. Certainly we have seen the weird demographic price that society has paid since the 1960s for its birth control policies, and ironically much of the labor that fuels economic growth in Europe and North America today comes from the young men and women from the Third World who were the products of "overpopulation". Still, one can't blame Heilbroner for falling into the fallacies of his day. Karl Marx once said that human capital is the source of all true economic growth, and he labeled those who disagreed with him as the "vulgar economists." By the 1960s, it seems that the vulgar economists were in charge.

I would highly recommend this little book to anyone who is a student of economics or who simply wants to read a good, readable introduction to economic thought and history.

Laura says

Wonderful introduction to economics and economic history from one of my favorite minds on this subject. Heilbroner maintains a broad world view, accute insights, and a humanisitic perspective.

Ahmed Hassan says

An excellent book from an educational point of view!

The writer was able to demonstrate the evolution of the economic behavior of different societies according to their environmental conditions as well as the humanitarian input of society individuals (inventions, theories, philosophies, religion ...etc.)

The book was also able to introduce some basic thoughts of political economy and an evaluation of different economic theories and an analysis of the application in society.

The book had two main disadvantages, first the languages at some parts was unnecessarily bulky and indirect and used complicated adjectives. The second disadvantage is that the book, in my opinion, should have spent more pages analyzing the philosophies of the socialist regimes and the reasons for their failure.

But in general the book is really useful and enriching.

mahdy says

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