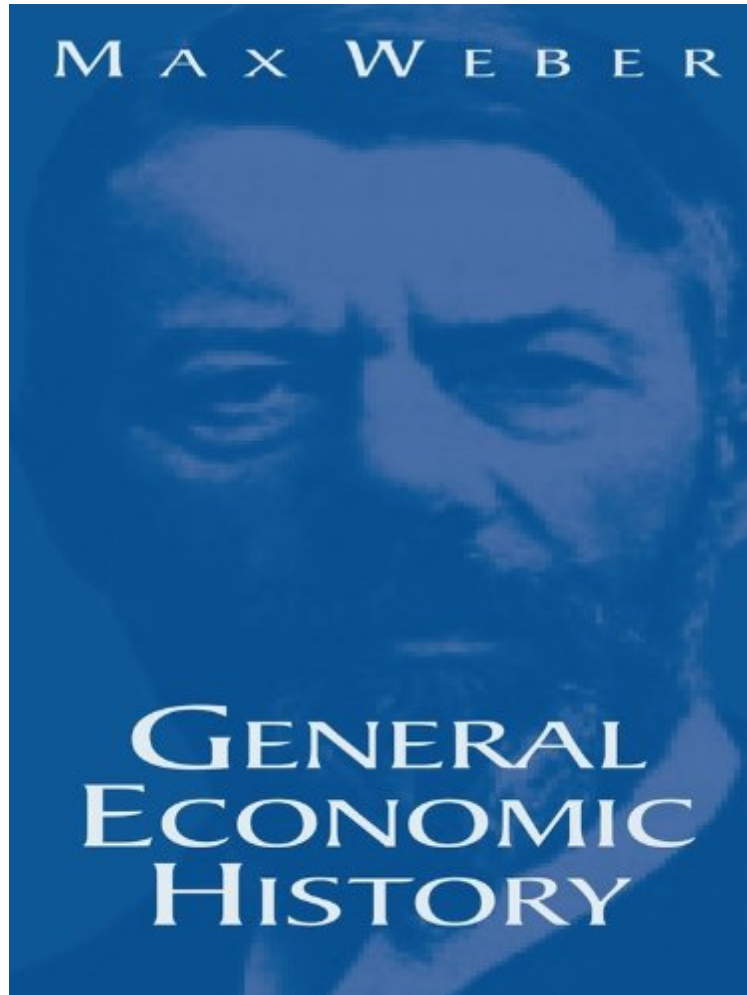


(Read and download) General Economic History

General Economic History

Max Weber

*ePub / *DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#565357 in eBooks 2012-07-12 2012-06-14 File Name: B00A73IPX4 | File size: 79.Mb

Max Weber : General Economic History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised General Economic History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Eclectic, unconventional, and ingeniousBy Hannes MalmbergBefore reviewing the book I will say a few things about how it came about. This is **not** a book written by Weber himself -- instead it is reproduced from lecture notes in an economic history course that he gave. It does not detract from the genius of the book, but it does mean that the material occasionally feels a bit disorganized.Now to the good parts.Weber accounts world economic history up to modern capitalism from his particular vantage point. He starts with the agricultural village, goes to pre-capitalistic industry and mining, the commercial system before capitalism, as well as outlining the institutional and ideological foundations for modern capitalism.The book is driven by his key theoretical concerns: the importance of political institutions; rationalization in world history; the evolutionary nature of social institutions; the role of religion and magic in social life. Despite the attention paid to sociological factors, the analysis is done without ever losing sight of the classic economic concerns: market pricing, investments being made in

response to returns, money being a facilitator of exchange, the importance of incentives in the construction of financial contracts, etc. As an economic PhD student I feel myself at home. In that sense it is the most comprehensive economic history I've read. Other histories often want to push their particular hypothesis, and their choice of material reflects this aim. Now Weber also has an hypothesis, but he also believes that every theory is partial, and shows this incompleteness by describing strange things off the beaten theoretical track. One of my personal favorites is that using the Arabic numeral system in accounting was seen as "unfair competition", which delayed its adoption. This can be seen as eclectic, but is understandable once we realize that Weber wants to show his students that history is not a linear progression in perfect concord with his theory. It also allows us to get a glimpse of what he considered to be of secondary importance, and allows us to judge his theory. Now some warning. The book is very dense and a bit unconventional in style. When we discussed it in our economic reading group, it could take half an hour to summarize 12 pages. Also, there are confusing side-tracks running into pages about the details of different monetary regimes, the structure of Germanic peasant villages, and financial contracts in Babylonia. In one sense, you are overwhelmed by Weber's vast erudition; in another sense, you think "get to the point". But it is still an extremely useful book to read. Firstly, because you realize that there isn't "the point" with economic history, but a collection of facts which we have a partial theoretical understanding of, and that all our explanations have exceptions. Secondly, because he gives an excellent outline of the different concerns we need to bring to an analysis of history: technical, institutional, ideological, religious. In the end, you won't know everything about economic history, but you will have a much better sense of what there is to know. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best single book to read about Max Weber. By Ivan This book was assembled from student notes, but it contains the maturest condensation of Weber's world historical vision. Everything else has methodological strictures, but this compilation really provides his fullest thought. For example, Weber did not think that Protestantism caused capitalism, but one might suppose he did who read only his Protestant Ethic. That monographic effort was a deliberate attempt to examine the supply side, ignoring the rest, in order to make the point, then very novel, that economic activity is deeply cultural. The General Economic History also introduces middleman minorities, a topic that went on to become cultural and social capital a century later. 1 of 32 people found the following review helpful. creepy instruction for German students. By sailing up chit speak Early economics has been reduced by philosophers to making the relationship of master and slave productive. Max Weber makes fine distinctions in the kinds of relationships that gives the superior powers of life or death, or all powers except life and death, over people who are supposed to be doing the work. The financial system that makes Americans expect huge gains without producing much is like the \$84 billion dollars expected to modernize the nuclear weapons systems in the next ten years: with the power to wipe out life on earth, Americans don't expect any powerful objections to setting up whatever form of collective financial suicide is likely to result from the marginal thinking of millionaires and billionaires. People survived without electricity and indoor plumbing for most of recorded history, but basic expectations like transportation, as in Chapter XV: Technical Requisites for the Transportation of Goodshad rowing and sailing instead of planes and airports for going long distances. Chapter XI had Disintegration of the Guilds. We may discover news ways to arrive at domestic industry.

This book, the last work of the great German sociologist and historian Max Weber (1864–1920), is based on a series of lectures he delivered in 1919–20. The present volume brings together major ideas that explain economic life and change. Beginning with descriptions and analyses of the early agrarian systems, Part One takes the reader through the manorial system, the guilds, and early capitalism as developed on plantations and other estates. Part Two considers the economic organization of industry and mining, while Part Three discusses the development of commerce, technical requisites for transporting goods, and banking systems. The last section surveys, among other topics, the evolution of capitalism and the capitalistic spirit. It also includes Weber's famous discussion of the relationship of religion to the cultural history of capitalism. This excellent English-language version of a work renowned for its interpretive brilliance, is intended for students of the social sciences as well as general readers.

“Max Weber (1864–1922) belongs to the German school of historical sociologists and ranks with Werner Sombart as a leading exponent of the historical development of social life.” The expression of a natural wish that Weber had actually written this book with his own hand must not be construed as ingratitude to the editors and students who, with commendable enterprise, took pains to pass on so much important and scholarly work to those who had not the privilege of hearing the lectures. — Alfred Plummer, *The Economic Journal* This volume contains a collection of lectures on economic history by Max Weber, who laboured for many years to fashion out a system of sociology and won the highest renown in Germany. [S]o well worth study is this book that it must surely inspire its readers with the desire that Weber's principal works should be also rendered into English. — R. F. Harrod, *Journal of the Royal Institute of International Affairs* "The special student will find all manner of delight in the illuminating treatment of particular points. The general reader will plow through the book with increasing pleasure." — Max Lerner "Succinct and suggestive . . . will compel specialists to think." — London Times. Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German About the Author Max Weber (1864–

1920) was one of the founders of contemporary social science and arguably the greatest influence on the evolution of sociology—its theory and historical linkages. His work focused on the areas of the history and theology of religion, political systems, and organizational theory and behavior. He studied at the University of Heidelberg followed by the University of Berlin. After completing his advanced studies, he became professor of economics first at Freiburg University and then at the University of Heidelberg. nbsp;