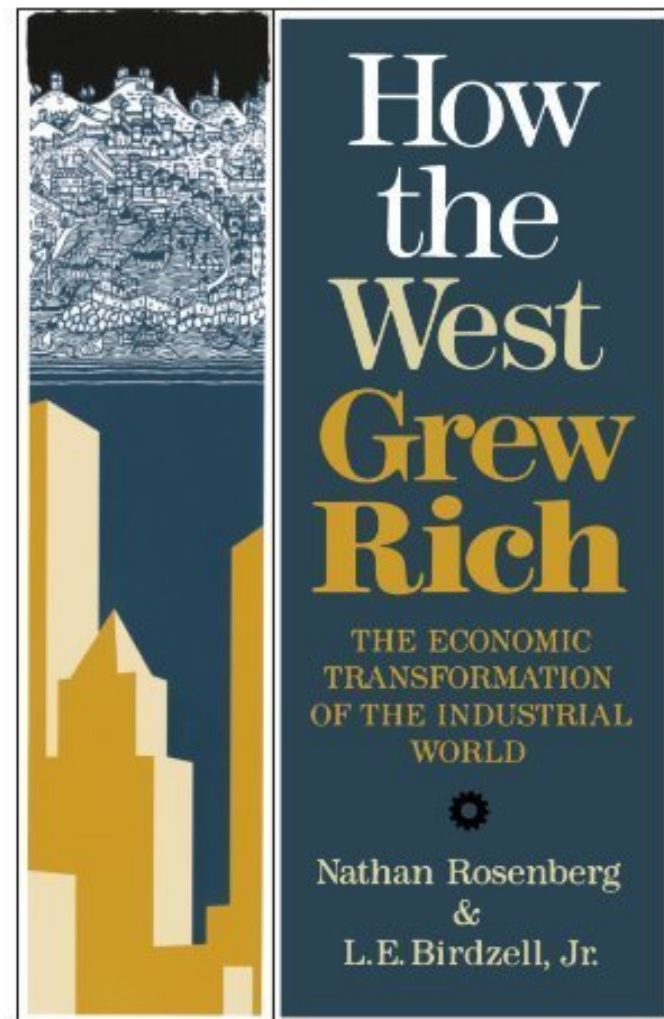


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How The West Grew Rich: The Economic Transformation Of The Industrial World

Nathan Rosenberg, L. E., Jr. Birdzell

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6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Best Explanation YetBy RogerI have read every book and article I can find on what I will call the Modern Breakthrough -- from a destitute, illiterate, unhealthy Malthusian world of pretty much every place for all time, to the modern world of relative prosperity, health, freedom and

knowledge. This book is probably the single best summary of the factors which were necessary to the breakthrough, or series of breakthroughs (they actually mention at least five -- the expansion of trading and markets, the first and second industrial revolution, the modern information/technology revolution, and science). I will allow, no encourage, everyone to read the book themselves for the details, but the basic concept is that what was different in Western Europe from other times and places was decentralized authority and decision making. Problem solving necessary for the advancement of the human condition is a cooperative affair, but cooperation can emerge both top down (via hierarchy and control) and bottom up in a decentralized, diverse way. The West blossomed by allowing more of the latter to emerge than in other societies controlled by custom, bureaucracy, despotism, the status quo, and guilds. The West, concentrated first in Britain and later much broader, first and foremost did less to stop innovation. Just as dramatically, it created (greatly without conscious intent) institutions which actually required or demanded innovation, experimentation, incremental improvement, efficiency and organizational adaptiveness. The book is about the details illustrating this unique situation. How it evolved. Why it evolved. Why it was so different. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How the West Grew Rich By Juan C. Excelent analysis of how to create wealth. The book provides a very realistic theoretical framework of how wealth can be created in any place of the world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By David S. Smith Bernie Sanders should read this.

How did the West—Europe, Canada, and the United States—escape from immemorial poverty into sustained economic growth and material well-being when other societies remained trapped in an endless cycle of birth, hunger, hardship, and death? In this elegant synthesis of economic history, two scholars argue that it is the political pluralism and the flexibility of the West's institutions—not corporate organization and mass production technology—that explain its unparalleled wealth.

From the Back Cover In this elegant synthesis of economic history, two scholars argue that it is the political pluralism and the flexibility of the West's institutions, not corporate organization and mass production technology—that explain its unparalleled wealth. About the Author Nathan Rosenberg, a leading expert on the history of technology, is an economist at Stanford University. L.E. Birdzell, Jr. is an attorney and legal scholar, based in Newport, Rhode Island.