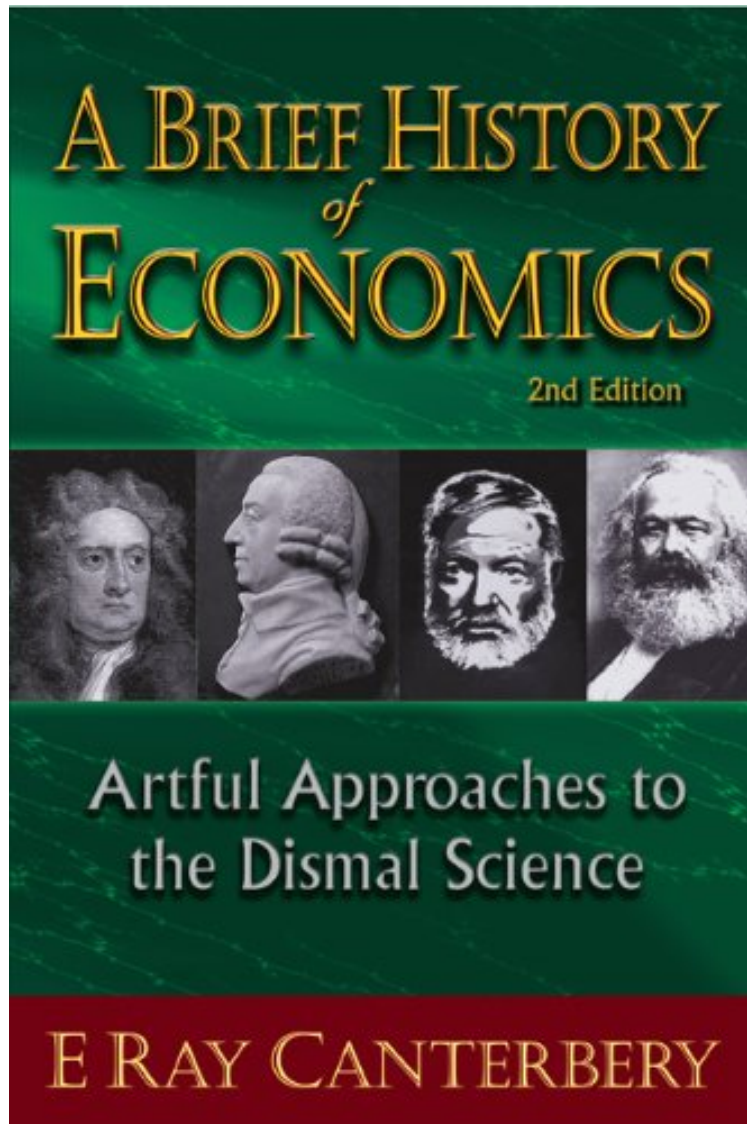


A Brief History of Economics: Artful Approaches to the Dismal Science

E Ray Canterbury

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E Ray Canterbury : A Brief History of Economics: Artful Approaches to the Dismal Science before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Brief History of Economics: Artful Approaches to the Dismal Science:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. uncommon sense By Philip G. Pryor Here is a book to explain the foggy and even filthy aspects of that great guessing game of economics. Pure economics would have been an adjunct of philosophy, especially in areas of ethics and morals. Just as medical sciences like surgery and dentistry have been

hijacked and abused by those desiring enhanced teeth, tits, vulvae and eye and lip surrounds,(or the fat) so economics has been abused by the greedy, ambitious, crooked and devious. To justify behaviour of extreme antisocial and selfish acquisitiveness, some economists and fringe financial figures have turned economics into a bloody, noholdsbarred death struggle, with Keynes and Hayek lately being worshipped or denounced by half-baked wannabe seers and opinioners. Ray Canterbury gives a broad, witty, informative scale and analysis to it all. You can see how a fraud of a female impersonator with grudges going back through the Tsars and Lenin, one A Rand, can be appealing to those seeking justifiable excuses for whole careers. You can learn how a tissue thin mentality can become a manipulatable president of the USA, purely to get noticed and be relieved. You might learn of the imprudence many had in believing and following false messiahs in Greenspan, Friedman, Volcker, etc. You can see how the Milkens and Madoffs came and went, with more likely. World finance, especially USA trends, frighten us, leave the honest hardworking job holder and seeker in fear, the investor on the outside of the pillaging gangs in danger. Why do we allow it, this "crime"? This is the best single book to unravel, all too late, some of the machinations of that moneyed type and class which wants to control and corner the wealth, with all the political and social power that it promises. Adam Smith might smile, Marx would have said he told us, Keynes would have denounced his messed up supporters. Read it well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. easy to read
 By xin.xie My professor of economic thought class recommends this book. Easy to read.
 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good over all information, not 'weighty'
 By Jim Sitnik I have a personal interest in economics and have read a couple rudimentary college economic books on my own. But I wanted to learn more about economics than just lines and graphs. I wanted a book that talked about the major economists. This book does that and more. The book gives a short personal history of the economists that are mentioned and the relationships between them and their different theories. The author even throws in some literary references here and there. (The author states that literature often states the real economic conditions of certain time periods.) The book was very readable. It does not weight you down with heavy math or an intense review of graphs behind economic theory. Generally, when it gets into the math that supports whatever theory, it is usually just 3 or 4 pages long and is explained in an understandable, logical way. What I did for myself while I was reading was I took notes just here and there to remind me of what economist had what theory. The book is well ordered; it is pretty much a time line from Adam Smith to Milton Friedman. The book builds upon each new theory and each new economist comparing schools of thought that came before until the end when... when we reach Reaganomics. Reading about Reaganomics was the toughest reading of the book. This is the only part of the book that I found difficult. I found the complexities of Reaganomics are... somewhat off the wall. I'm going to have to go back and re-read that section. This is the main reason why I did not give the book 5 stars. Someone who is more versed in economics might better understand this section in one reading. However, the author's concluding opinion of Reaganomics is very clear. (Hint: It is not positive.) I find the author to be somewhat refreshing in that in the ending pages, if I understood him correctly, he strongly hints that theories of economics, and economist, should be taken with a grain or two of salt. I recommend the book.

Blending past and present, this brief history of economics is the perfect book for introducing students to the field. A Brief History of Economics illustrates how the ideas of the great economists not only influenced societies but were themselves shaped by their cultural milieu. Understanding the economists' visions; lucidly and vividly unveiled by Canterbury; allows readers to place economics within a broader community of ideas. Magically, the author links Adam Smith to Isaac Newton's idea of an orderly universe, F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* to Thorstein Veblen, John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* to the Great Depression, and Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities* to Reaganomics. The second edition is right up-to-date with a lively discussion of the economic crises of 2007-2010. Often humorous, Canterbury's easy style will make the student's first foray into economics lively and relevant. Readers will dismiss "dismal" from the science. Contents: Introduction Feudalism and the Evolution of Economic Society Adam Smith's Great Vision Bentham and Malthus: The Hedonist and the "Pastor"; The Distribution of Income Ricardo versus Malthus The Cold Water of Poverty and the Heat of John Stuart Mill's Passions Karl Marx Alfred Marshall: The Great Victorian Thorstein Veblen Takes on the American Captains of Industry The Jazz Age: Aftermath of War and Prelude to Depression John Maynard Keynes and the Great Depression The Many Modern Keynesians The Monetarists and the New Classicals Deepen the Counterrevolution Economic Growth and Technology: Schumpeter and Capitalism's Motion The Many Faces of Capitalism: Galbraith, Heilbroner, and the Institutionalists The Rise of the Casino Economy The Global Economy Climbing the Economist's Mountain to High Theory The Housing and Credit Crises of 2008 The Great Recession of 2007-2010 The Future of Economics Readership: Undergraduate and foundation level students, and laymen.

"No one interested in economics -- and it's an interest all shrewd citizens should cultivate -- will want to miss Ray Canterbury ... He has established himself as an incisive and interesting scholar who greatly prefers truth to the orthodox applause ... Canterbury always has a good foundation of fact, analysis and judgement to support his

positions." ---- John Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard University"Canterbery's unique style of presentation and breadth of vision manages to breathe new life into the study of dead economists ... Really helps the reader conjure up a vision of the economic times ... A fine addition to the history of thought literature." ---- Journal of Economic Issues"There is much in A Brief History of Economics to provide pleasant reading for a wide audience. Specialists in economic thought will be attracted by the easy writing style combined with the coherent historical development of post-Keynesian notions ... Nonspecialists will be pleased to find coherent discussions of various economic subjects that may, prior to reading the book, have been confusing ... the book is highly recommended for both specialist and nonspecialist alike." -- --The Historian"Canterbery's unique style of presentation and breadth of vision manages to breathe new life into the study of dead economists ... Really helps the reader conjure up a vision of the economic times ... A fine addition to the history of thought literature." ---- Journal of Economic Issues"There is much in A Brief History of Economics to provide pleasant reading for a wide audience. Specialists in economic thought will be attracted by the easy writing style combined with the coherent historical development of post-Keynesian notions ... Nonspecialists will be pleased to find coherent discussions of various economic subjects that may, prior to reading the book, have been confusing ... the book is highly recommended for both specialist and nonspecialist alike." ---- The Historian

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

In January 1996, Prentice-Hall, Inc. selected E Ray Canterbery for their Hall of Fame Economist Baseball Cards for "significant contributions to the economics discipline," including "developing one of the first complete mathematical theories of foreign exchange; a new theory of the labor market and of personal incomes (vita theory), which later was integrated into international trade theory; independently of Pasinetti, developing a production model of the total value added required in both labor and profits, proving also that profit margins equal price markups; several policy ideas that have become real world economic policies." Active in many economics associations, Canterbery served as President of the Eastern Economics Association in 1986-1987 and President of the International Trade and Finance Association in 1998-1999. He is an elected member of the New York Academy of Sciences. Canterbery was one of the earliest critics of Alan Greenspan's monetary policy. Canterbery wrote of how Greenspan, as the most influential Cheerleader of the "New Economy," helped to hype the American stock market into a giant bubble destined to burst. Canterbery was correct: Greenspan was wrong. Only now have other economists and financial experts jumped on this prescient critic's bandwagon as it now passes before their delayed perceptions! The International Biography Centre in Cambridge, England includes Canterbery among 500 persons worldwide in its *Living Legends* (2002), among 2000 scholars worldwide in their *Outstanding Scholars in the 21st Century*, and among the select *One Thousand Great Americans* (2002). The American Biographical Institute includes Canterbery in its *Great Minds of the 21st Century* (2003).