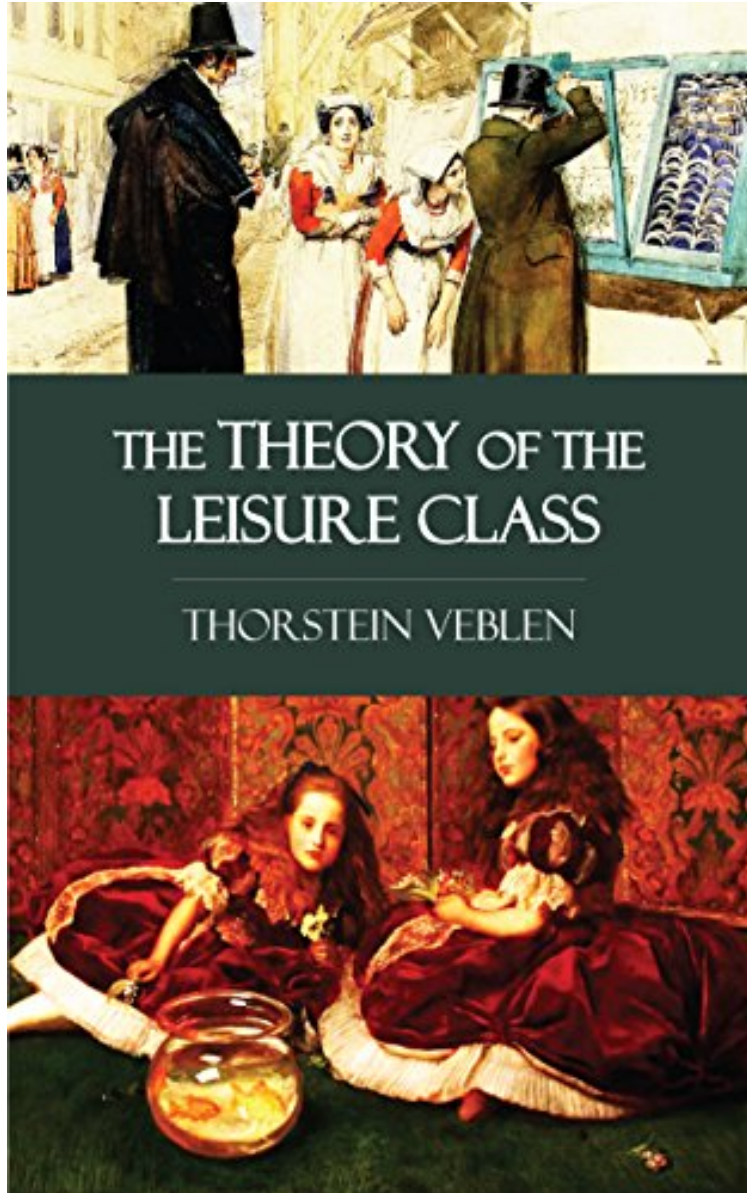


(Free pdf) The Theory of the Leisure Class

The Theory of the Leisure Class

Thorstein Veblen

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Thorstein Veblen : The Theory of the Leisure Class before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Theory of the Leisure Class:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Thorstein Veblen, a very interesting man with a very interesting point of view and economist. By Meatloaf Thorstein Veblen is a very interesting being. I read about Veblen in economics books. For instance 'The Worldly Philosophers' has a whole chapter on him. To understand the context of where he fit. Adam Smith said small government with maximum freedom means wealth. But then David Ricardo and

Thomas Malthus showed some complications to Adam Smith's theories. So John Stuart Mill taught that institutions are the solution. For instance if the landowner is getting rich at everybody's expense, how about the landowner gets taxed more? In this context Thorstein Veblen shows that economists will always disagree on any solution. If there are 5 economists in the room you will get 6 different answers. Veblen saw two main groups of people. Those of the Leisure Class who are the rich rulers, who waste resources and set society's norms. The others conform as they are worried about fitting in and end up wasting time and money on things that have no benefit to them. Then he saw the industrial class as the solution. As industry develops, people become more and more matter of fact. Veblen saw ancient but not modern religion as an example of the leisure class setting norms. He saw religious ornaments and ceremonies as a waste of time. He saw those working in the factory, and focusing on the matter of facts of breaking free of the norms established by the Leisure Class. To him ancient religion took control of people by using fear. However, he saw modern religion as good. He saw charities as giving back to the people, and he saw this as becoming more and more reality. Unfortunately some of what Veblen has advocated has come to pass, and the world is no better. We have become more technological in our communication-internet and cellphones; and have less time for face to face communication. I miss those days. Another worrying thing is that Karl Marx was against family, religion and private property. Veblen was also against the traditional family, traditional religion and private property. He was against traditional family in the sense that the woman would concentrate on having children and pleasing her man instead of working in the family. Where they disagreed is that Marx saw technology as part of the ruling class, and making the life of everybody else miserable. Whereas Veblen saw the machine as ultimately liberating people. He also saw mankind on an evolutionary path, whereas Marx saw the end of capitalism as the 2nd to last stage. In all Veblen is a very interesting being as he comes from a very unique point of view. One last thing about ancient vs modern religion. "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" James 1:27. So there you have it he wasn't against all forms of religion. I'm giving him 5 stars not because I agree or disagree with him, but simply cause he presented a different view in economics, and different economists have different views. And last of all yes he did write many books and articles, but most of his other books are just a build on. This book covers the majority of his ideas. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read, an unusual book. By zkcom1 This is an unusual and unique book, unlike many other books I've read. Over the course of reading it, thoughts kept coming to mind like "Is this serious?" "Is the author being sarcastic here?" "Is there some ulterior motive behind the writing of the book?" It could be frustrating at times, but in a way it ended up being one of the reasons why I like this book; it made me curious and question things. The author could make a good point clearly when he wanted to, and when he did I found it very insightful. But other times he would ramble on and end up with a couple confusing paragraphs that seemed to go off course for a moment. I'd say this is a book of "half and half" in many aspects. Half of it is outdated, but a good amount of it is still very relevant today. Half of it makes good points clearly, the other half is a confusing mess. Half of it seems dead serious, the other half reads more like sarcasm or satire. All in all, I'm glad I read it, and I'm sure I will continue thinking about the principles outlined as I observe the actions of society, whether they be the "leisure class" or those trying to emulate the leisure class. This book is also very good for sharpening up one's vocabulary. I often look up words I'm not too familiar with and this book had me running to the dictionary several times. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book. Well-written - but if you've forgotten your ... By KateLove Fantastic book. Well-written - but if you've forgotten your SAT words - you might be in for a challenging read. The theory and commentary on society is as poignant today as when it was conceived.

That the contemporary lords of the manor, the businessmen who own the means of production, have employed themselves in the economically unproductive practices of conspicuous consumption and conspicuous leisure, which are useless activities that contribute neither to the economy nor to the material production of the useful goods and services required for the functioning of society; while it is the middle class and the working class who are usefully employed in the industrialised, productive occupations that support the whole of society. Conducted in the late 19th century, Veblen's socio-economic analyses of the business cycles and the consequent price politics of the U.S. economy, and of the emergent division of labour, by technocratic speciality — scientist, engineer, technologist, et al. — proved to be accurate, sociological predictions of the economic structure of an industrial society..

"In his first and most fascinating book, Veblen was mocking a process as old as civilization. He expressed his skepticism in a rough-hewn prose style which made him the most impressive American satirist of his day." — Time "Every brash, upcoming generation should discover Veblen, and most complacent adults need to rediscover him." — The Minneapolis Tribune From the Inside Flap Almost a century after its original publication, Thorstein Veblen's work is as fresh and relevant as ever. Veblen's *The Theory of the Leisure Class* is in the tradition of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* and Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*, yet it provides a surprisingly contemporary look at American economics and society. Establishing such terms as "conspicuous consumption" and

"pecuniary emulation," Veblen's most famous work has become an archetype not only of economic theory, but of historical and sociological thought as well. As sociologist Alan Wolfe writes in his Introduction, Veblen "skillfully . . . wrote a book that will be read so long as the rich are different from the rest of us; which, if the future is anything like the past, they always will be." About the Author Alan Wolfe is the director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College and the author of *One Nation, After All* and *Moral Freedom*.