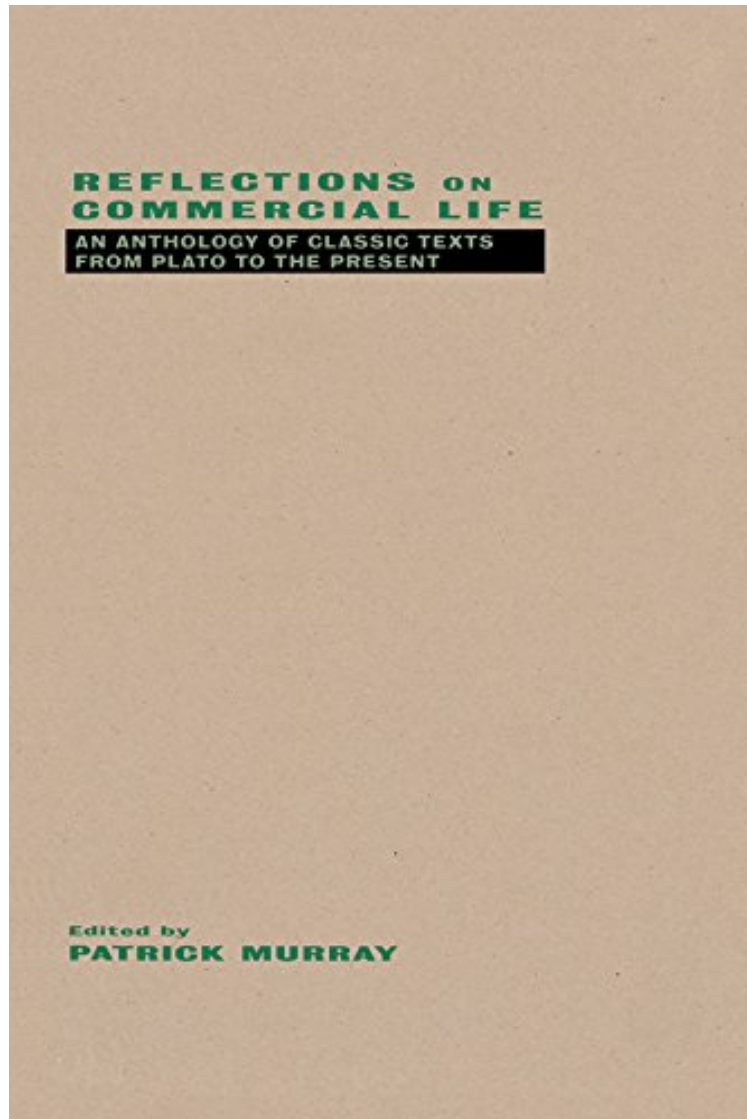


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Reflections on Commercial Life: An Anthology of Classic Texts from Plato to the Present

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7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Excellent collection of human arrival at commerceBy ninjasuperstarCommerce IS Western society and has been since our Puritan founders disclosed divinity in the ethos: work hard. From Calvinism, we have developed the Gila Monster (as John Steinbeck puts it) called capitalism, and

now it develops and controls us, dollar for dollar. Patrick Murray gives us a guided tour of commercial life via classical and contemporary texts: Aristotle reminds us of the purpose of money in commercial exchanges as well as our contradiction in the form of usury (using money to "breed" money, collect interest). Aquinas allows us refuge from usurious sin by examining consumable forms of capital (money) and non-consumable forms of capital (like an apartment for rent). Then, there's John Locke's labor and Invisible Hand, David Hume's luxury, and probably most importantly, Karl Marx's Capital. After Marx, the book takes an interesting shift into Weber's "spirit of capitalism," Bataille's examination of gifts, Weil's "bigness," and others. This is one of the most important books I have ever read. The social form peculiar to commercial society is, like language, so close to us that we often can't see it. Even recommending this book, I am asking you to participate in a commercial exchange: you SELL your labor power to your employer; "they" give you a wage and keep the excess value you've produced; you BUY this book, read it, and suddenly understand how it all works. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great reader
By Adam Karnik
Both the selections in the book and the editor's notes are very helpful. A great primer for economic philosophy!
Highly recommended.

Reflections on Commercial Life, an anthology of writings, from the ancient Greeks to contemporary thinkers, provides students, scholars, and general readers an opportunity to develop a more self-conscious and critical relationship to commercial life. Selections are drawn from seminal works of high intellectual and literary quality. Through an inquiry into history, nature, and outcomes, this volume offers the opportunity to explore, as never before, alternatives to modern commercial life.

Patrick Murray's Reflections on Commercial Life is one of the most valuable books on my bookshelves devoted to business, business ethics, and economics. It is a densely-packed treasury of selections from the great thinkers of history on the topics of money, exchange, and commerce. About the Author
Patrick Murray is Chair of the Philosophy Department at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, and the author of Marx's Theory of Scientific Knowledge (1988).