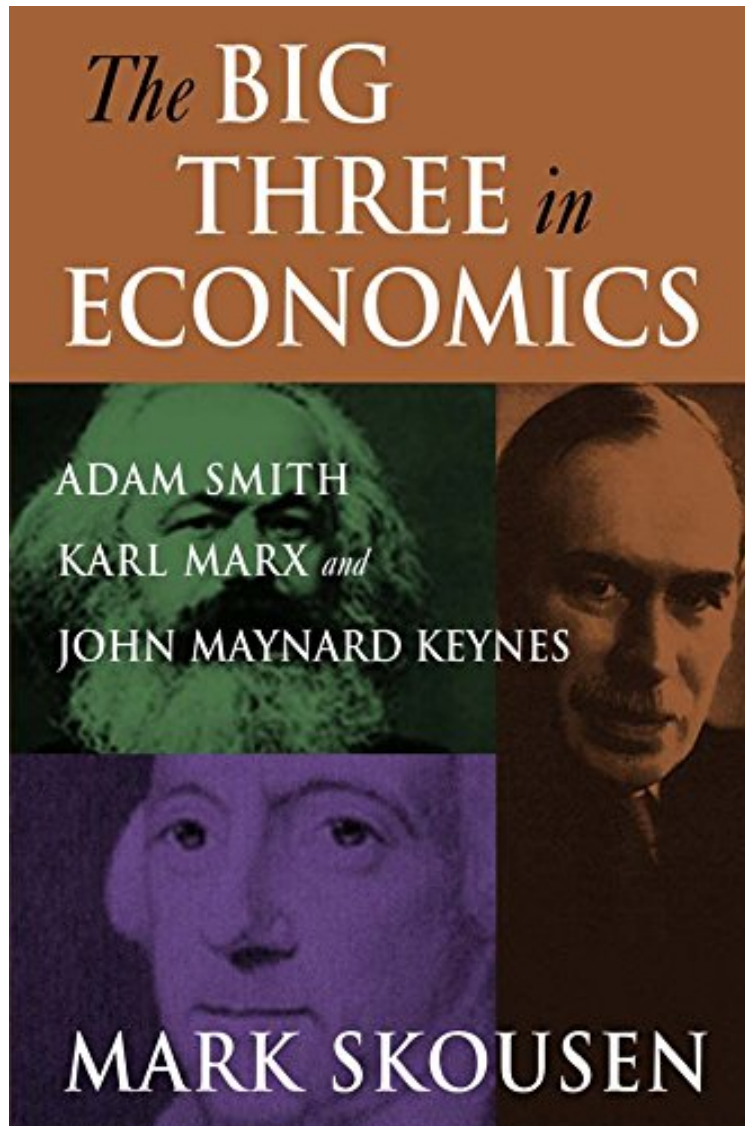


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Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes

# The Big Three in Economics: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes

Mark Skousen

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Mark Skousen : The Big Three in Economics: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Three in Economics: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes: Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting Story of Development of Economics over More than Two Centuries  
By FCRichelieu  
This is a very interesting book on the swings in mainstream economic philosophy since Adam Smith published his *Wealth of Nations* in the mid-17th century. Skousen has done a great job in telling a lively (and well-researched) story on an otherwise dry subject. He tells a captivating story with a down-to-earth writing style that is uncommon among professors. Although the story does get somewhat technical here and there, it is told in plain enough language that lay readers can follow without too much difficulty. This is an engrossing human story that also provides a crash course in Economics for lay readers like myself. Very interesting and highly recommended.  
5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A well-written and clear survey of economic history  
By Kay  
The good:  
1. The book accomplishes what it says it will -- it gives a general history of economics from the publication of "*The Wealth of Nations*" in 1776 until today. The book gives a relatively brief biography of each of the "Big Three", explains the fundamental principles of each figure's economic model, and then gives the reactions and counter reactions to the each of "Big Three" by economists contemporary at the time.  
2. The history is clear and well-written. So long as you have a basic understanding of the fundamentals of economics, you won't need to do research outside of the book to understand what it is saying.  
The not so good:  
3. As some other reviewers have said, the author is opinionated. As this is a history, I suppose that is unavoidable, but the author is unashamedly opinionated. He likes Adam Smith. Any deviation from Adam Smith's philosophy and the author tends to use more inflammatory language in describing it. What is most bizarre though is that he frequently states that Adam Smith's system creates an "optimistic world" and criticizes opposition to Adam Smith by labeling them as "pessimistic" or such. The author's bias should be taken into consideration by the reader.  
4. Some parts of this book are copied word-for-word from the author's other book, "*The Making of Modern Economics*".  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Its informative...  
By Uzingal  
I rated this book a five stars because of the richness, (importance) and relevance of its content. Although I believe the author could have made an even better effort to neutrality (on his personal views). I also like the easy reading, its rhythm and chronology (well written, I think...). I was a little turned off by the inconsistency in the description of some concepts. It is my understanding that according to the author some ideas merit more depth than others. However, the author fell to accurately reveal the evidence against some those ideas. I just thought he was dismissive, opaque and perhaps sometimes bord with views he did not agree with. I would recommend this book to senior undergraduates students in economics and to those interested in social and world affairs.

History comes alive in this fascinating story of opposing views that continue to play a fundamental role in today's politics and economics. "*The Big Three in Economics*" traces the turbulent lives and battle of ideas of the three most influential economists in world history: Adam Smith, representing *laissez faire*; Karl Marx, reflecting the radical socialist model; and John Maynard Keynes, symbolizing big government and the welfare state. Each view has had a significant influence on shaping the modern world, and the book traces the development of each philosophy through the eyes of its creator. In the twenty-first century, Adam Smith's "invisible hand" model has gained the upper hand, and capitalism appears to have won the battle of ideas over socialism and interventionism. But author Mark Skousen shows that, even in the era of globalization and privatization, Keynesian and Marxian ideas continue to play a significant role in economic policy.

About the Author  
MARK SKOUSEN has taught economics at Columbia University, is editor of *Forecasts Strategies*, a monthly investment newsletter, and is the author of more than twenty books, including *The Making of Modern Economics*.