



## The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain 1700-1850 (The New Economic History of Britain Series)

*By Joel Mokyr*

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This book focuses on the importance of ideological and institutional factors in the rapid development of the British economy during the years between the Glorious Revolution and the Crystal Palace Exhibition. Joel Mokyr shows that we cannot understand the Industrial Revolution without recognizing the importance of the intellectual sea changes of Britain's Age of Enlightenment.

In a vigorous discussion, Mokyr goes beyond the standard explanations that credit geographical factors, the role of markets, politics, and society to show that the beginnings of modern economic growth in Britain depended a great deal on what key players knew and believed, and how those beliefs affected their economic behavior. He argues that Britain led the rest of Europe into the Industrial Revolution because it was there that the optimal intersection of ideas, culture, institutions, and technology existed to make rapid economic growth achievable. His wide-ranging evidence covers sectors of the British economy often neglected, such as the service industries.

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**The Enlightened Economy: An Economic History of Britain 1700-1850 (The New Economic History of Britain Series) By Joel Mokyr Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #637550 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Yale University Press
- Published on: 2012-10-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x 5.75" w x 1.25" l, 1.63 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 550 pages

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(Edward Glaeser *The New Republic*)

“It is impossible to do justice to the subtlety and detail of "The Enlightened Economy"; it is the product of a lifetime of research and thought, and stands as a landmark work of history...its perceptive examination of the birth of economic prosperity holds many arresting insights for our fraught economic times” –Trevor Butterworth, *Wall Street Journal*

(Trevor Butterworth *The Wall Street Journal* 2010-07-30)

"This book is beautifully executed from beginning to end. . . . This study of British industrialization is certain to be a classic text for generations to come."—Margaret Schabas, *American Historical Review*  
(Margaret Schabas *American Historical Review*)

#### About the Author

**Joel Mokyr** is Robert H. Strotz Professor of Arts and Sciences and professor of economics and history, Northwestern University, and Sackler Professor at the Eitan Berglas School of Economics, Tel Aviv University.

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