

employs a capital in the support of industry; and he will always, therefore, endeavour to employ it in the support of that industry of which the produce is likely to be of the greatest value, or to exchange for the greatest quantity either of money or of other goods.

CHAP.

II.

BUT the annual revenue of every society is always precisely equal to the exchangeable value of the whole annual produce of its industry, or rather is precisely the same thing with that exchangeable value. As every individual, therefore, endeavours as much as he can both to employ his capital in the support of domestick industry, and so to direct that industry that its produce may be of the greatest value; every individual necessarily labours to render the annual revenue of the society as great as he can. He generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the publick interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it. By preferring the support of domestick to that of foreign industry he intends only his own security; and by directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, he intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. Nor is it always the worse for the society that it was no part of it. By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it. I have never known much good done by those who affected to trade for the publick good. It is an affection, indeed, not very common among merchants, and very few words need be employed in dissuading them from it.

WHAT is the species of domestick industry which his capital can employ, and of which the produce is likely to be of the greatest value, every individual, it is evident, can, in his local situation, judge much better than any statesman or lawgiver can do for him.

F 2

The

国富論

アダム・スミス 1776年
初版本 ロンドン刊

「神の見えざる手」が 経済を動かす？

「神の見えざる手」というフレーズで有名な経済学の書物です。著者のアダム・スミスは、18世紀後半に活躍したイギリスの経済学者・哲学者です。当時、アジアとの貿易を独占していた東インド会社を批判し、「国王や政府が経済に介入せず、人々が自由に貿易をして互いに競争することが、国民と国家を豊かにする」という考えを示しました。この主張は産業革命を背景に力をつけた資本家達に支持されました。

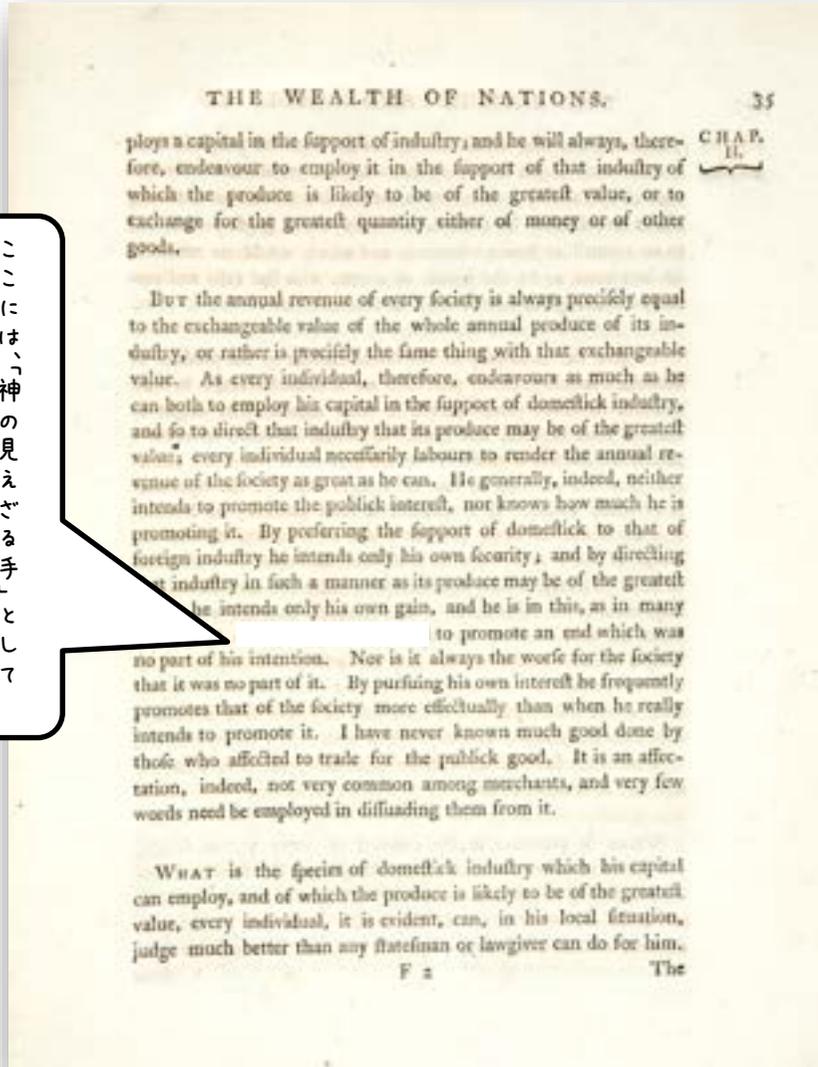
An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations,
Adam Smith, 1776, 1st edition, London

Famous for the term “invisible hand,” this is one of the most influential economic books in history. The author Adam Smith criticizes mercantilist views and praises laissez-faire theory, stressing the importance of having individuals compete freely in markets.



国富論:1776年 アダム・スミス

経済学の教科書!



有名には「神の見えざる手」として有名になったフレーズが書いてあるよ。

☆『国富論』って?
⇒18世紀半ばにヨーロッパで起こった「産業革命」。この産業革命のあと、大きく変わった経済のカタチを解き明かそうとした本です。今に続く資本主義経済を

最初に解き明かそうとしたので、著者のアダム・スミスは「経済学の父」と呼ばれています。

☆東洋文庫の『国富論』は... ⇒ズバリ、初版本です!1776年にロンドンで出版されたものです。