

The Theory of Moral Sentiments (Penguin Classics)

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Best known for his revolutionary free-market economics treatise *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith was first and foremost a moral philosopher. In his first book, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, he investigated the flip side of economic self-interest: the interest of the greater good. Smith's classic work advances ideas about conscience, moral judgement and virtue that have taken on renewed importance in business and politics.

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Adam Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) lays the foundation for a general system of morals, and is a text of central importance in the history of moral and political thought. By means of the idea of sympathy and the mental construct of an impartial spectator, Smith formulated highly original theories of conscience, moral judgment and the virtues. This volume offers a new edition of the text with helpful notes for the student reader, together with a substantial introduction that sets the work in its philosophical and historical context. "In *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Smith assigned himself a difficult and dangerous task: to establish for educated men in an increasingly revolutionary age the reasonableness of morality and the necessity of the fruits of virtue - illustrated by the wisdom of the classical authors of antiquity. This book, Adam Smith's first, is, then, proof to skeptics of the importance of morality; and an antidote to those who think that free-market economics can be divorced from a moral society."--BOOK JACKET.

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Adam Smith,

Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ Ⓜ . Wlien in 1787 Adam Smith thanked the University for his election as Lord Rector by the votes of all four nations, he took occasion to describe Hutcheson as "the never to be forgotten ". Hitherto this epithet has been taken to be a ..."