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The World Economy: Historical Statistics (Development Centre Studies)



Synopsis

Following his *The World Economy: a Millennial Perspective*, Angus Maddison here offers a rare insight into the history and political influence of national accounts and national accounting. He demonstrates that such statistical data can shed light on the analysis of economic phenomena such as growth, market formation and income distribution. This approach is particularly interesting for developing countries often lacking the expertise or data to produce good national accounts. It also serves as a reminder for OECD countries that effective policy making depends on verifiable economic data. This book includes tables showing Maddison's estimates for the world and its major regions from as early as the year 1000. It is intended as a research guide for future comparisons of economic performance in space and time. It is for scholars and students of economics and economic history as well as for statisticians.

Book Information

Series: Development Centre Studies

Paperback: 274 pages

Publisher: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (March 18, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9264104127

ISBN-13: 978-9264104129

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.6 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #477,954 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Business & Money > Accounting > Governmental #51 in Books > Business & Money > Accounting > International #92 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Comparative

Customer Reviews

Angus Maddison is emeritus professor at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and honorary fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge University.

I have spent a good part of my life studying books on global statistics. This is truly one of the best. There is virtually no other book that takes a global look at world economics and goes back hundreds of years into the past. You might want to check by profile for some of my Listmania lists on the world future if this subject interests you.

In the last few years I have been searching books offering a general overview of the past, and I have realized that many books entitled "History of ...whatever" only provide information about the West, the rest of the world being almost ignored. Maddison's on world economy is different, is truly global. It offers historical statistics of the last two thousand years and is to be read together with "The world economy. A millennial perspective" (a combined edition of both volumes is to be published on December 2007). In my opinion this is masterful work that can be savored by the professional historian and educated layperson alike, so my rate is between 5 (content) and 4 (pleasure, sometimes falling to 3, sometimes raising to 5). I highly recommend the two volumes. Other works whose scope is as amazingly global as Maddison's and which I would suggest to read (hoping that will be of use for those looking for a broad framework to understand ourselves) are the following: 1. Agrarian cultures: "Pre-industrial societies" by Patricia Crone; 2. Government: "The History of Government" by S.E. Finer; 3. Ideas: "Ideas, a History from Fire to Freud", by Peter Watson; 4. Religion: "The Phenomenon of Religion: A Thematic Approach" by Moojan Momen; and 5. War: "War in Human Civilization" by Azar Gat.

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