

Abstract

This book challenges the general notion that economics and theology are different academic disciplines. By exploring the relationship between economics and theology through the concept of salvation, this book bridges the gap between the two disciplines and offers a new understanding of their relationship. The meaning and role of self-consciousness in human salvation is developed in relation to major philosophers Adam Smith and G.W.F. Hegel. Smith's self-interest is a natural instinct, while Hegel's self-consciousness is a rational ability. By illuminating the theological foundations of the economic ideas of these two main thinkers, this book enriches our understanding of the issues related to salvation such as: sympathy and recognition, poverty and the state, the invisible hand and the cunning of reason, evil and scarcity, and eschatology. This exploration of their thoughts to clarify the inherent relationship between economics and theology may thus contribute to a better understanding of salvation. The book also provides a model for future dialogue between economists and theologians and extends the frontier of this relatively unexplored field of research.