



On Commerce and Usury (1524)

Martin Luther, edited with an introduction and notes by Philipp Robinson Rössner

Pub Date: 15 September 2015

Binding: Hardback

Price: £60.00 / \$99.00

ISBN: 9781783083855

Extent: 240 pages

Size: 152 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

Series: Economic Ideas that Built Europe; Anthem Other Canon Economics

BISAC CATEGORY: HISTORY / Europe /

General BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / Economic History,

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / Development / Economic

Development

BISAC CODE: HIS010000

BIC CODE: KCZ

RIGHTS

Exclusive: WORLD

A revised translation of Martin Luther's most important economic pamphlet with extended critical introduction and notes

'In his deeply erudite introduction, Philipp Rössner offers a vivid contextualization of Luther's thinking on how commerce should be managed in order to promote a proper Christian society. Rössner not only explores Luther's ideas on commerce and ethics from the point of view of modern economics, but he uses Luther's perspective as a critical lens through which he examines, with great nuance and clarity, the state of economic reasoning today.' —Carl Wennerlind, Columbia University

'Luther's On Commerce and Usury is much more than a sermon. It is a powerful reminder that markets are human constructs and depend on rules for their existence and operation. This inconvenient truth deserves reflection, as Philipp Rössner demonstrates in his fascinating essay. By delving into the context and meaning of a sixteenth-century classic, he speaks to the present.' —Francesco Boldizzoni, University of Turin

This volume presents Martin Luther's contribution to the modern economic sciences, providing a detailed introduction and revised translation of his major pamphlet on economic matters, 'On Commerce and Usury' ('Von Kaufhandlung und Wucher', 1524). In his teachings on indulgences, Luther picked up on the question of hoarding money, and was among the earliest voices in early modern Europe calling for an 'ethical' economics. Luther's work prefigured many later contributions to modern economic theory, from the mercantilists and cameralists to the German Historical School.

Contents

Acknowledgements; CRITICAL INTRODUCTION: 1. Approaching Luther; 2. Contextualizing Luther: The Powers of Time and Space; 3. Luther: Impulsive Economics; 4. The Grip of the Dead Hand: Crisis Economics for a Pre-Industrial Society? 5. Von Kaufhandlung und Wucher (1524): Analytical Summary; 6. Conclusion: What Can We Learn from Luther Today?; ON COMMERCE AND USURY (1524): Notes on the Text; On Commerce and Usury; Bibliography; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Martin Luther (1483–1546) was a German friar, priest and professor of theology who was a seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation.

Philipp Robinson Rössner is Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Early Modern History at the University of Manchester.

Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World

Marston Book Services

P.O. Box 269, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

OX14 4YN, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1235 465577 | Fax: +44 (0)1235 465556

direct.orders@marston.co.uk | trade.orders@marston.co.uk

Ordering in North America

Books International

P.O. Box 605, Herndon, VA

20172-0605 United States

Tel: +1 703 661 1570 | Fax: +1 703 661 1501

bimail@presswarehouse.com

75-76 Blackfriars Road | London SE1 8HA | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7401 4200 | Fax: +44 (0)20 7401 4225

244 Madison Ave. #116 | New York | NY 10016 | United States | Tel: +1 646 736 7908 | Fax: +1 646 839 2934

info@anthempres.com | sales@anthempres.com | publicity@anthempres.com | www.anthempres.com