Adam Smith: A Very Short Introduction
Christopher J. Berry

In 1776, Adam Smith (1723–90) wrote The Wealth of Nations, the foundational book that led to him being called the ‘father of economics’. However, Adam Smith was far more than an economist. Adam Smith is introduced through an overview of his writings and moral philosophy. Adam Smith: A Very Short Introduction offers a balanced and nuanced view of this seminal thinker, embedding his fierce defence of free trade, competition, and assault on special interests in contemporary European history, politics, and philosophy. It outlines Smith’s central ideas and how his intellectual and social environment influenced his thinking. It also discusses Smith’s influence on subsequent generations, and the ways in which he has been interpreted.

Global Economic History: A Very Short Introduction
Robert C. Allen

Global Economic History: A Very Short Introduction considers the wealth and economic history of countries worldwide. Why are some countries rich and others poor? The various factors that influence economic growth, including culture, globalization, institutions, technology, the natural environment, income distribution, and the standard of living are discussed. From the industrial revolution in Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries, the range of processes and developments that have led to economic growth in Western Europe, North America, China, India, South America, and Africa are considered. Historical examples to show the strengths and weaknesses of state intervention in the economy are also used.
Keynes: A Very Short Introduction provides an insight into his life and works, and explores Keynes's ethical and practical philosophy, and his monetary thought. John Maynard Keynes (1883–1946) was a central thinker of the twentieth century, not just an economic theorist and statesman, but also in economics, philosophy, politics, and culture. Keynes's fundamental insight was that we do not know, and cannot calculate, what the future will bring. In the recent financial crisis, Keynes's theories have become more relevant than ever, and remain at the centre of political and economic discussion. What did Keynes contribute to twentieth-century economic thought? What can we say about his legacy for today's economy and society?