

Eryk Kosiński

**IDEAS OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND FREE COMPETITION.
THE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT
AND THE ORIGINS OF THE CONCEPT**

The article is devoted to the history of economic thought in the area of economic freedom (free trade concept) and free competition. It presents the thought of philosophers and economists starting from ancient times throughout middle ages and following centuries, up till the birth of economy as a science (Adam Smith) and the beginning of the so-called "modern capitalism" (XVIII-th and XIX-th centuries).

The Author points out that the approach towards trade, economic activity and economic freedom together with free competition evolved within the centuries from disguise and even hate to respect and love, when a man changed into the so-called "homo oeconomicus". However, one may say, that this state is not perpetual. Nowadays the approach of a modern human being is evolving, too. Many sociologists and economists underline that at present a man is more "homo ludens" than "homo oeconomicus".

The article presents as well the history of early Polish economic thought, naming such great Polish thinkers like: Jan Ostroróg, Mikołaj Kopernik, Andrzej Frycz-Modrzewski, Jan Abrahamowicz, Marcin Śmiglecki, Sebastian Petrycy, Krzysztof Opaliński, Stanisław Cikowski, Wojciech Gostkowski, Stanisław Zaremba, Jan Grodwagner, Szymon Starowolski, Andrzej Maksymilian Fredro, Jan Szembek, Jan Czapski, Stanisław Poniatowski, Andrzej Stanisław Załuski, Stanisław Konarski, Stefan Garczyński.