



# Adam Smith: An Enlightened Life (The Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-C)

*Nicholas Phillipson*

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The great eighteenth-century British economist Adam Smith (1723–90) is celebrated as the founder of modern economics. Yet Smith saw himself primarily as a philosopher rather than an economist and would never have predicted that the ideas for which he is now best known were his most important. This biography shows the extent to which Smith's great works, *The Wealth of Nations* and *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, were part of one of the most ambitious projects of the European Enlightenment, a grand "Science of Man" that would encompass law, history, and aesthetics as well as economics and ethics, and which was only half complete on Smith's death in 1790.

Nick Phillipson reconstructs Smith's intellectual ancestry and shows what Smith took from, and what he gave to, in the rapidly changing intellectual and commercial cultures of Glasgow and Edinburgh as they entered the great years of the Scottish Enlightenment. Above all he explains how far Smith's ideas developed in dialogue with those of his closest friend, the other titan of the age, David Hume.

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