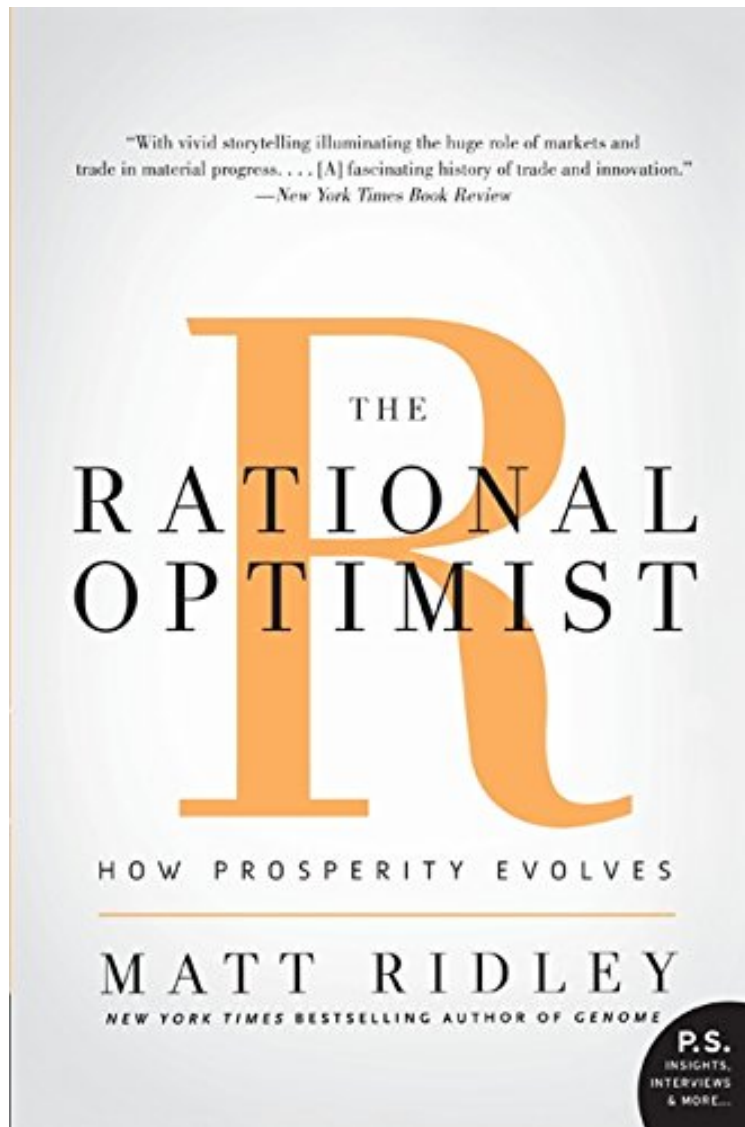


(Free pdf) The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves (P.S.)

The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves (P.S.)

Matt Ridley

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Matt Ridley : The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves (P.S.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves (P.S.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just a really great bookBy A CustomerA very iconoclastic friend recommended this and I read it with great interest. Glad I did. I've had some of these thoughts myself but not in any organized or well supported way. So it was a pleasure basically to see many of my intellectual optimisms reflected here. But much more than that. A relief. I just hope, as I have often said to myself, that his optimism is right. And I do wonder about some of his blithe pronouncements. I love them, but just wonder, for example, whether his chemistry is

correct (hope it is). After all he himself is not a chemist of any degree I think. And many very intelligent (and surely not all with bad faith) others are not nearly so optimistic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was finally glad to hear well-articulated arguments that I have thought for ...By M Ambiv03 Well researched and written. Gets a little repetitive, understandably so, since he's making arguments against a lot of conventional wisdom. I was finally glad to hear well-articulated arguments that I have thought for years. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dare to be an optimist By BartMatt takes you to a walk through a series of scenarios where the humanity has been challenged for the nature and nurture conditions in the environment. Each chapter he explains why and how humanity have passed those challenges that for the people that have lived in each aeon the challenges seemed hard or even impossible. What is the importance of the ideas and exchange in society? Let Matt explain that to you. He's really good at it.

Ridley writes with panache, wit, and humor and displays remarkable ingenuity in finding ways to present complicated materials for the lay reader. Los Angeles Times In a bold and provocative interpretation of economic history, Matt Ridley, the New York Times bestselling author of *Genome* and *The Red Queen*, makes the case for an economics of hope, arguing that the benefits of commerce, technology, innovation, and change what Ridley calls cultural evolution will inevitably increase human prosperity. Fans of the works of Jared Diamond (*Guns, Germs, and Steel*), Niall Ferguson (*The Ascent of Money*), and Thomas Friedman (*The World Is Flat*) will find much to ponder and enjoy in *The Rational Optimist*.

From Publishers Weekly Ideas have sex, in Ridley's schema; they follow a process of natural selection of their own, and as long as they continue to do so, there is reason to retire apocalyptic pessimism about the future of our species. Erstwhile zoologist, conservationist, and journalist, Ridley (*The Red Queen*) posits that as long as civilization engages in exchange and specialization, we will be able to reinvent ourselves and responsibly use earthly resources ad infinitum. Humanity's collective intelligence will save the day, just as it has over the centuries. Ridley puts current perceptions about violence, wealth, and the environment into historical perspective, reaching back thousands of years to advocate global free trade, smaller government, and the use of fossil fuels. He confidently takes on the experts, from modern sociologists who fret over the current level of violence in the world to environmentalists who disdain genetically modified crops. An ambitious and sunny paean to human ingenuity, this is an argument for why ambitious optimism is morally mandatory. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Science journalist Ridley believes there is a reason to be optimistic about the human race, and he defies the unprecedented economic pessimism he observes. His book is about the rapid and continuous change that human society experiences, unlike any other animal group. Ideas needed to meet and mate for culture to turn cumulative, and there was a point in human pre-history when big-brained, cultural, learning people for the first time began to exchange things with each other and that once they started doing so, culture suddenly became cumulative, and the great headlong experiment of human economic progress began. Participants in the exchanges improved their lives by trading food and tools. Ridley believes it is probable that humanity will be better off in the next century than it is today, and so will the ecology of our planet. He dares the human race to embrace change, be rationally optimistic, and strive for an improved life for all people. --Mary Whaley A superb book Elegant, learned, and cogent a far-reaching synthesis of economics and ecology, a triumphant new demarche in the understanding of wealth and poverty Inspiring. (George Gilder, National) A very good book a rich analysis Ridley is a cogent and erudite social critic He bolsters his argument with an impressive tour of evolutionary biology, economics, philosophy, world history. (Washington Post) A fast-moving, intelligent description of why human life has so consistently improved over the course of history, and a wonderful overview of how human civilizations move forward. (John Tierney, New York Times) A delightful and fascinating book filled with insight and wit, which will make you think twice and cheer up. (Steven Pinker) The Rational Optimist teems with challenging and original ideas No other book has argued with such brilliance and historical breadth against the automatic pessimism that prevails in intellectual life. (Ian McEwan) Ridley eloquently weaves together economics, archeology, history, and evolutionary theory His words effortlessly turn complicated economic and scientific concepts into entertaining, digestible nuggets. (Barrett Sheridan, Newsweek) Invigorating For Mr. Ridley, the market for ideas needs to be as open as possible in order to breed ingenuity from collaboration. (Trevor Butterworth, Wall Street Journal) The Rational Optimist will give a reader solid reasons for believing that the human species will overcome its economic, political and environmental woes during this century. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram) This inspiring book, a glorious defense of our species is a devastating rebuke to humanity's self-haters. (Sunday Times (London)) Original, clever and controversial (The Guardian) A dose of just the kind of glass-half-full information we need right now A powerful antidote to gloom-n-doom-mongering. (Washington Examiner) A mesmerizing book. (Los Angeles Times) Riddleys dazzling, insightful and entertaining book on the unstoppable march of innovation is a refresher course in human history... Great ideas spring up unexpectedly from every direction, with each new one naturally coordinating with others... (New York Post) A fabulous new book... I was so delighted, amused and uplifted by it that I bought a couple hundred copies and sent one to all my clients. (Donald

Luskin, Smart Money)