Description
Based on the accounts of British and Anglo-Irish travelers, *Creating Irish Tourism* charts the development of tourism in Ireland from 1750 to 1850.

Although modern tourism did not begin in Ireland, it developed there rapidly after 1750, making the island one of the first counties in which tourism became a driving economic and cultural factor. Based on the accounts of British and Anglo-Irish travelers, this book charts the development of tourism in Ireland from its origins in the mid-eighteenth century to the country's emergence as a major European tourist destination a century later.

Given its scenic attractions and proximity to Great Britain, Ireland's position as a tourism Mecca might seem inevitable. Yet *Creating Irish Tourism* reveals that tourism in Ireland, as anywhere else in the eighteenth century, had to be invented. Through the descriptive accounts of travel writers the sites had to be identified and defined in ways that made them attractive and meaningful to potential visitors. Landlords often opened and organized the sites for visitors. However, the actual activities on the ground – what the tourists viewed and experienced – evolved out of the interaction between the visitors and the veritable army of peasant guides, jarvies, vendors, porters, and beggars who greeted and served them. These contacts combined with British stereotypes regarding the Irish to create distinctly 'Irish' tourist experiences.

In addition to period travel writing, this study draws upon recent scholarship in the fields of tourism and travel studies to produce the first investigation of the history of the initial century of Irish tourism.

Readership: Students and scholars interested in Irish Studies and Travel and Tourism Studies; general readers who have been – or plan to be – tourists in Ireland.

Contents
Introduction; Chapter One: Getting There and Getting About; Chapter Two: Tours Grand and Petite; Chapter Three: Property, Class and Irish Tourism; Chapter Four: The Sublime and the Picturesque in the Irish Landscape; Chapter Five: Picturesque Tourist Sites in Ireland; Chapter Six: The Tourist Experience; Chapter Seven: Killarney - A Case Study in the Irish Tourist Experience; Chapter Eight: Tourist Semeiotics, Stereotypes and the Search for the Exotic; Chapter Nine: On the Road--In Search of Ireland; Chapter Ten: The Famine and After; Conclusion; Endnotes; Bibliography

About the Author
William H. A. Williams completed his PhD from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1971. He has since worked as a lecturer, project director, and educational consultant, and has retired as Professor Emeritus from the Union Institute, College of Undergraduate Studies in Cincinnati, Ohio. His recent publications include *Tourism, Landscape and the Irish Character: British Traveling Writing in Pre-Famine Ireland, 1750-1850*.

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Benjamin Franklin and the Invention of Microfinance

In life Benjamin Franklin sought to manage debt, organize credit, build capital and promote virtue. After death he continued this work by leaving a codicil to his last will and testament, bequeathing £2000 to Boston and Philadelphia and to the Commonwealths of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania with instructions on how they should utilize the money over the course of the following two hundred years. The money was designed to be used to provide loans to young married artisans to enable them to start small businesses and thereby promote a higher standard of living and a strong moral community. Although the managers put in charge of the endowment did not lend as effectively as Franklin had hoped, the loans did aid numerous small businessmen in both cities. Advocates of microfinance today will find much of interest in this study, including pitfalls to avoid and old ideas that may bear resuscitation.
The Determinants of Entrepreneurship

This study looks at entrepreneurial history from three angles: Entrepreneurial Typologies; Business Leaders; and Culture vs Institutions. The previous scarcity of material makes this collection of nine papers an invaluable resource and should encourage further analysis.
Despite their economic and social importance, however, there are relatively few book-length studies of national insurance industries. This collection of nine essays by a group of international experts hopes to redress this balance; providing an extensive geographical and thematic spread, linked via an extensive introduction.
Political Economies of the Aegean Bronze Age
edited by Daniel J. Pullen

DESCRIPTION:
This volume brings together an international group of researchers to address how Mycenaean and Minoan states controlled the economy. The contributions, originally delivered at the 2007 Langford Conference at the Florida State University, examine the political economies of state (and pre-state) entities within the Aegean Bronze Age, including the issues of centralization and multiple scales of production, distribution, and consumption within a polity; importance of extraregional trade; craft specialization; the role of non-elite institutions, and the political economy before the emergence of the palaces.

The contributors address these issues from an explicitly comparative perspective, both within and across Minoan and Mycenaean contexts. The conclusions reached in this volume shed new light on the essential differences between and among Minoan and Mycenaean states through their political economies.
From Minos to Midas
Ancient Cloth Production in the Aegean and in Anatolia
by Brendan Burke

DESCRIPTION:
Textile production was of greater value and importance to people in the past than any other social craft activity: everyone depended on cloth. As with other craft goods, such as pottery, metal objects, or ivory carving, the large-scale production and exchange of textiles required specialization and some degree of centralization.

This book takes an explicitly economic approach to textile production, focusing on regional centers, most often referred to as palaces, to understand the means by which states in the Aegean and Anatolia financed themselves through cloth industries. From this we can look for evidence of social stratification, inter-regional exchange, and organized bureaucracies. Spanning multiple millennia and various sources of evidence, Burke illustrates the complex nature of cloth production, exchange, and consumption and what this tells us about individual societies and prehistoric economies, as well as how developments in cloth industries reflect larger aspects of social organization.
This new study shows how merchants sought to minimise losses by forging strong bonds of interpersonal trust amongst a range of employees, partners, and clients.

Fruitfully combining approaches from economic history and the cultural history of commerce, this book examines the role of interpersonal trust in underpinning trade, amid the challenges and uncertainties of the eighteenth-century Atlantic. It focuses on the nature of mercantile activity in two parts of Spain: Cadiz in the south, and its trade with Spain’s American empire; and Bilbao in the north, and its trade with western and northern Europe. In particular, it explores the processes of trade, trading networks and communications, seeking to understand merchant behaviour, especially the choices made by individuals when conducting business - and specifically with whom they chose to deal. Drawing from a broad range of Spanish, Peruvian and British archival sources, the book reveals merchants’ experiences of trusting their agents and correspondents, and shows how different factors, from distance to legal frameworks and ethnicity, affected their ability to rely on their contacts.

XABIER LAMIKIZ gained his PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London; he is currently a research associate at IKER, Bayonne.
DEBT
The First 5,000 Years
By David Graeber

BEFORE THERE WAS MONEY, THERE WAS DEBT

The real history of the force that makes the world go round and what this shows about the financial crisis.

The standardised version of the history of money states that it was invented as a replacement to the onerous and complicated barter systems – to save people from having to haul weighty goods to market. The only problem with this history is that there isn’t a shred of evidence to support it.

In stunning reversal of conventional wisdom, anthropologist David Graeber shows readers that for more than 5,000 years, since the beginning of the agrarian empires, humans have used elaborate credit systems to buy and sell goods, a system that far preceded bartering. Graeber also shows that the history of society being divided into creditors and debtors was also born in this ancient era.

DEBT shows how this system perpetuated itself with tremendous, violent consequences that the world is now experiencing with the financial crisis. This is a fascinating chronicle of a little known history, showing how it has defined societal behaviour right up to the credit crisis.

“[Graeber’s] writings on anthropological theory are outstanding. I consider him the best anthropological theorist of his generation from anywhere in the world.”
– Maurice Bloch, Professor of Anthropology, LSE

NEWTITLE

THE PLANS THAT FAILED
An Economic History of East Germany, 1945–1989

André Steiner
Translated from the German by Ewald Osers

Summary
The establishment of the Communist social model in one part of Germany was a result of international postwar developments, of the Cold War waged by East and West, and of the resultant partition of Germany. As the author argues, the GDR’s “new” society was deliberately conceived as a counter-model to the liberal and market-regulated system. Although the hopes connected with this alternative system turned out to be misplaced and the planned economy may be thoroughly discredited today, it is important to understand the context in which it developed and failed. This study, a bestseller in its German version, offers an in-depth exploration of the GDR economy’s starting conditions and the obstacles to growth it confronted during the consolidation phase. These factors, however, were not decisive in the GDR’s lack of growth compared to that of the Federal Republic. As this study convincingly shows, it was the economic model that led to failure.

“So far there has been a dearth of studies on the economic history of the GDR, unlike the recent surge of general historical accounts. Based on an exceptional knowledge of the literature and well supported by a number of key, so far unpublished, documents, this book fills the gap. André Steiner fully succeeds in his attempt, managing to produce from highly complex material a very accessible text for a wide readership without sacrificing analytical quality.” — H-Soz-u-Kult

About the Author
André Steiner is the Research Director for the Department of Economic and Social History at the Center for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF) and Professor of economic and social history at the University of Potsdam. He has been a Research Fellow at Institutes for Economic History in Berlin and Mannheim and was Professor at the Ruhr University Bochum. His publications include Die DDR-Wirtschaftsreform der sechziger Jahre. Konflikt zwischen Effizienz- und Machtkalkül (Berlin, 1999), Von Plan zu Plan. Eine Wirtschaftsgeschichte der DDR (Munich, 2004), and Preispolitik und Lebensstandard. Nationalsozialismus, DDR und Bundesrepublik im Vergleich (editor, Cologne, 2006).

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