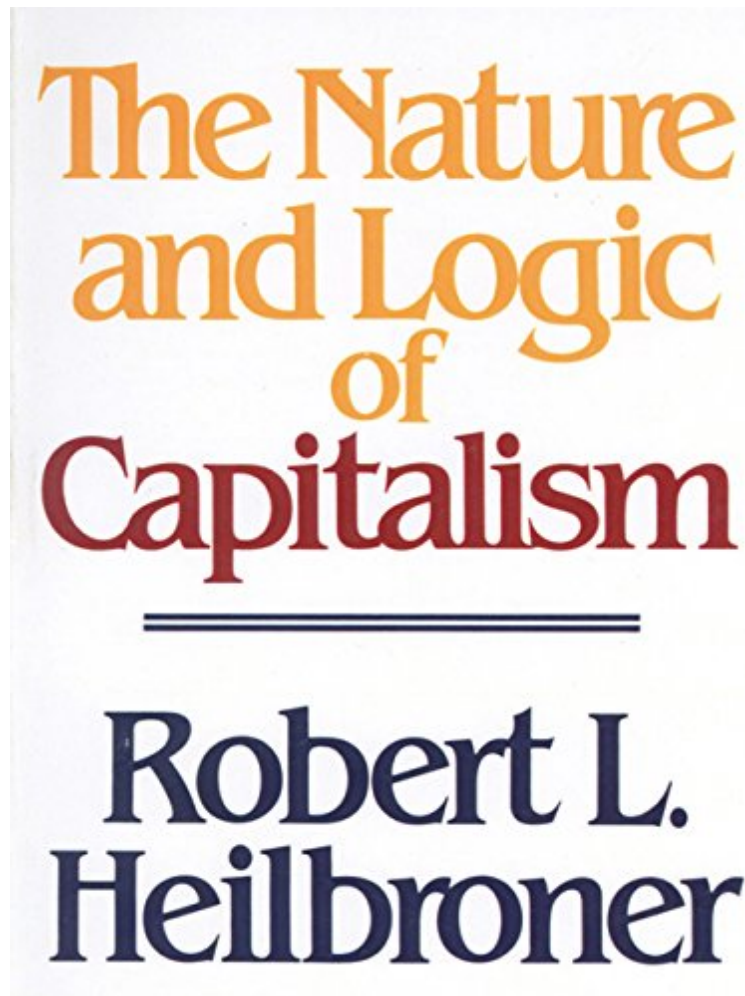


## The Nature and Logic of Capitalism

*Robert L. Heilbroner*

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**Robert L. Heilbroner : The Nature and Logic of Capitalism** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nature and Logic of Capitalism:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Long View...By not me Robert Heilbroner's "The Nature and Logic of Capitalism" offers a view of capitalism from 30,000 feet. It explains how capitalist property relationships allow the ruling class to discipline workers and suck up the economic surplus, while forcing individual capitalists to compete endlessly with one another. The result is a system of ever-growing capital formation and technological improvements, but one rocked by periodic crises and blighted by warped values. The book's discussion of the relationship between the state and the economy is excellent, as is its description of the competitive pressures that transform economies over time. And the remarks on the globalization of production and marketing -- written before NAFTA and the WTO -- are eerily prescient. (Because Heilbroner saw deeply into the essence of issues, the book isn't seriously dated even though it was written in 1985.) My only real complaint is about Heilbroner's abstract and ponderous writing style, which makes the book seem sketchy and dense at the same time. Beginners won't find "The

Nature and Logic of Capitalism" easy to read, while readers already familiar with basic Marxist social theory won't learn much of anything new. In fact, I'm not really sure who the right audience would be. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like this author. By Diane Was hoping for a book jacket, but it's missing. Still, for the price, I won't complain. Book is interesting. I like this author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By antelmo vasquez Very good, easy to understand, small book to take anywhere to read.

In *The Worldly Philosophers*, Robert Heilbroner set out to describe what the great economists thought would happen to the system of capitalism. In later books, Professor Heilbroner projected his own views about the future of the capitalist system. Now he asks a still more demanding question: What is capitalism? In search of an answer, *The Nature and Logic of Capitalism* takes us on a far-ranging exploration to the unconscious levels of the human psyche and the roots of domination and submission; to the organization of primitive society and the origins of wealth; to the sources of profit and the conception of a "regime" of capital; to the interplay of relatively slow-changing institutions and the powerful force of the accumulation of wealth. By the end of this tour we have grappled not only with ideas of Adam Smith and Karl Marx but with Freud and modern anthropologists as well. And we are far closer to understanding capitalism in our time, its possibilities and limits.

From *Library Journal* Heilbroner brings his thoughts to the question "What is capitalism?" He refers to earlier civilizations but most of the work deals with American capitalism. His focus is on the social formation of capitalism, its nature and its logic, the process that surrounds the accumulation of capital. This treatise thus represents Heilbroner's description of the capital accumulation process, the role of government, and capitalist development, along with the multiple ideologies that can surround capitalism. The theories of numerous other writers, including Marx, Smith, Veblen, Lowe, and Mandel, are both criticized and praised. Difficult reading but important for larger public and academic libraries. Jane M. Kathman, Management Dept., Coll. of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minn. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Robert L. Heilbroner was Norman Thomas Professor of Economics at the New School for Social Research and author of *The Worldly Philosophers* and many other books.