



History of Economics Review >

Volume 55, 2012 - [Issue 1](#)

91 Views | 5 CrossRef citations to date | 0 Altmetric

Original Articles

Why Does Jean-Baptiste Say Think Economics is Worth Studying?

Gilles Jacoud

Pages 29-46 | Published online: 10 Mar 2016

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/18386318.2012.11682191>

Sample our
Economics, Finance,
Business & Industry Journals
>> **Sign in here** to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days



References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

Abstract

Jean-Baptiste Say sought to make the subject of political economy known to a wide public and taught it right up to the last few weeks of his life. The object of this article is to understand why, according to Say, political economy is worth studying. It is worthwhile, because as he explains from 1800 onwards, it is capable of making men more virtuous and societies more civilised. In order to do this, it must establish irrefutable truths. According to him this is possible thanks to use of the experimental method which in political economy enables the establishment of laws as sound as those that exist in the field of physics. Once they are known, these laws help individuals to act according to their true interests, enabling them to improve their material conditions. The material affluence favoured by the knowledge of political economy contributes to men's fulfilment and makes nations more civilised.

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
5

Information for

- Authors
- R&D professionals
- Editors
- Librarians
- Societies

Opportunities

- Reprints and e-prints
- Advertising solutions
- Accelerated publication
- Corporate access solutions

Open access

- Overview
- Open journals
- Open Select
- Dove Medical Press
- F1000Research

Help and information

- Help and contact
- Newsroom
- All journals
- Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

 Sign me up

