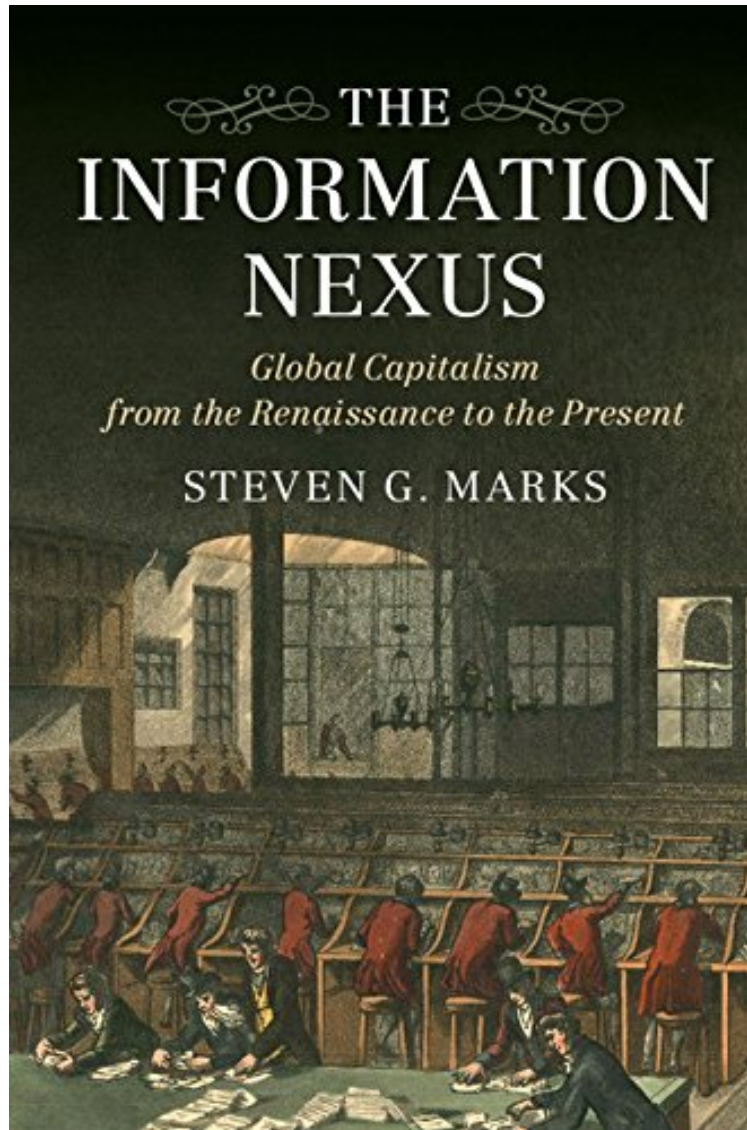


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The Information Nexus: Global Capitalism from the Renaissance to the Present

Steven Marks

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Steven Marks : The Information Nexus: Global Capitalism from the Renaissance to the Present before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Information Nexus: Global Capitalism from the Renaissance to the Present:

Capitalism is central to our understanding of contemporary economic and political life and yet what does it really

mean? If, as has now been shown to be the case, capital and property rights existed in pre-modern and pre-capitalist societies, what is left of our understanding of capitalism? Steven Marks' provocative new book calls into question everything we thought we knew about capitalism, from the world's very origins and development to the drivers of Western economic growth. Ranging from the Middle Ages to the present, *The Information Nexus* reveals that the truly distinctive feature of capitalism is business's drive to acquire and analyze information, supported by governments that allow unfettered access to public data. This new interpretation of capitalism helps to explain the rise of the West, puts our current information age into historical perspective, and provides a benchmark for the comparative assessment of economic systems in today's globalized environment.

"Steven Marks has written the best - and certainly the most compelling - single study of the historical origins of modern capitalism. This terrific book demolishes many hard-held beliefs and ideologies about capitalism, for instance that it is based on control of capital! Marks makes a skilful case that the way we organize and share information is central to the way we behave in politics but also in the economy." Harold James, author of *Family Capitalism and Making the European Monetary Union*"Using public information to reinforce and validate traditional ties of personal trust within a business community creates an information nexus, which Steven Marks argues is at the heart of modern capitalism and continues to be so. Everyone who thinks they know what capitalism is today, how it came to be, and where it is headed, has a lot to learn and think about after reading this book." Larry Neal, author of *A Concise History of International Finance* and co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Capitalism*"In stressing the importance of collecting, processing, exchanging and utilizing information for the rise and the working of capitalism, *The Information Nexus* breaks new ground. It is original and very readable, presenting well-known facts in a new light. Steve Marks's distinctive take on capitalism neatly fits our present-day experiences and the problems of the digital age. It deserves a broad audience." Jürgen Kocka, author of *Capitalism: A Short History*About the AuthorSteven Marks is Professor of History at Clemson University, South Carolina. He has written books and articles on Russian economic and cultural history, all with a comparative global focus, including *How Russia Shaped the Modern World* (2003), on the international reception of Russian ideas, and *Road to Power* (1991), on the creation of the Trans-Siberian Railway. *The Information Nexus* is the summation of his thinking on world economic history and the history of capitalism, subjects he has taught for more than twenty years. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1988.