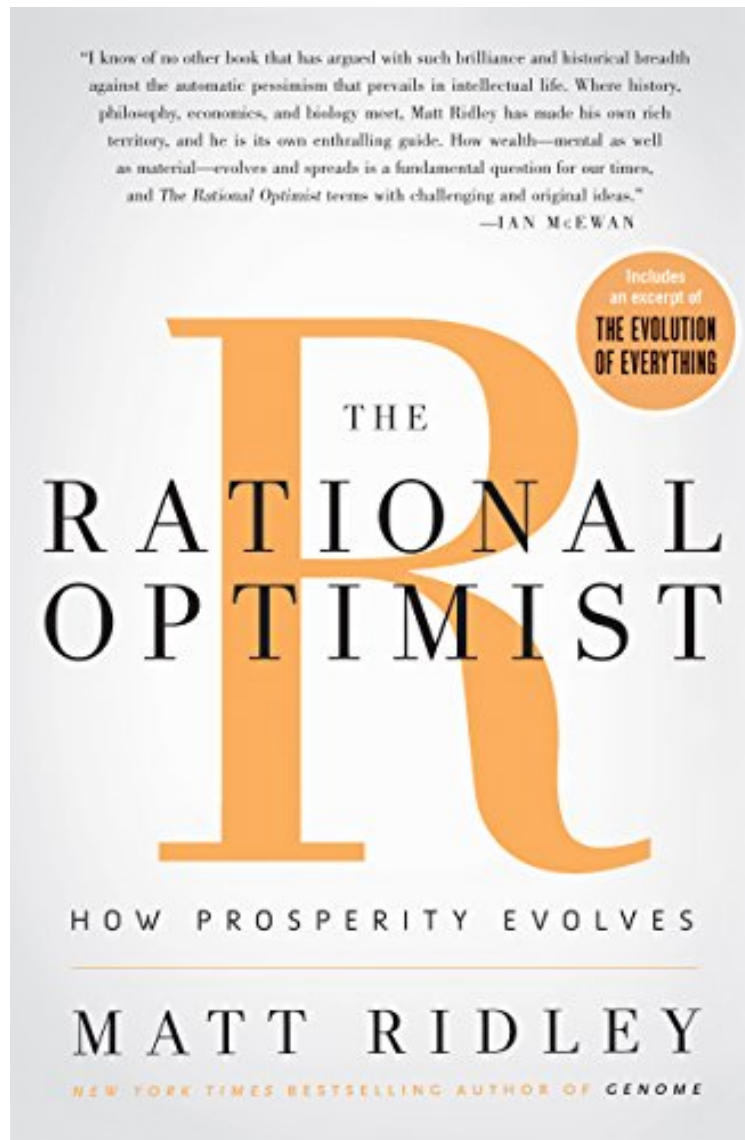


[Read free ebook] The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves (P.S.)

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

Matt Ridley

ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook



 Download

 Read Online

#60694 in eBooks 2010-06-10 2010-06-15 File Name: B003QP4BJM | File size: 36.Mb

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 book
By A Customer
A 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. An intriguing look at pretty much everything By Dave Mark Touching on anthropology, sociology, economics, and politics, Ridley explains how we got here, why we got here, and gives a convincing rationale for why we should believe that society as a whole will continue to improve. Filled with thought-provoking detail and example, it gives a massive cornucopia of knowledge and wisdom not only as raw fact but in the context of greater things. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully Reasoned By T. Edward Fenstermacher This book is a beautifully reasoned explanation of what makes the human race different from the animals, how this leads to continuous innovation, and how, (if we don't foul it up, which we surely still can), it can lead to a vastly more prosperous world for all of us (particularly the parts that are now poor) in the coming century. Here, briefly, are a few of his central ideas, which are all supported by the evidence he presents. These work together to support his central thesis. Specialization is good. Trade is good (and we are the only species that trades). Together, specialization and trade enable us to efficiently use our talents in the best way to get the best of what others produce. Self-sufficiency leads to poverty, because no one can master all of the skills and have all the tools necessary for anything above a subsistence living. Cross-fertilization of ideas is necessary. Rarely if ever does one invent something entirely on his own. Inventions come from putting together ideas others have had in novel and unique ways. (As a patent holder, I can attest to this.) Use of energy from other than human beings is what allowed the effective end of slavery (Yes, it still exists, but is criminal nearly everywhere). The more compact the form of energy, the better for the environment. The higher the real per-capita income, the longer and better people live. In the next century, real growth will allow us to deal with any ill effects from global climate change, and lift Africa out of poverty, if we but act reasonably intelligently. I don't have the book in front of me just now, so I may have left something out. But I assure you, Matt Ridley did not. Get it, read it, and be sure to look at the graph at the beginning of each chapter.

Life is getting better—and at an accelerating rate. Food availability, income, and life span are up; disease, child mortality, and violence are down—; all across the globe. Though the world is far from perfect, necessities and luxuries alike are getting cheaper; population growth is slowing; Africa is following Asia out of poverty; the Internet, the mobile phone, and container shipping are enriching people's lives as never before. The pessimists who dominate public discourse insist that we will soon reach a turning point and things will start to get worse. But they have been saying this for two hundred years. Yet Matt Ridley does more than describe how things are getting better. He explains why. Prosperity comes from everybody working for everybody else. The habit of exchange and specialization—which started more than 100,000 years ago—has created a collective brain that sets human living standards on a rising trend. The mutual dependence, trust, and sharing that result are causes for hope, not despair. This bold book covers the entire sweep of human history, from the Stone Age to the Internet, from the stagnation of the Ming empire to the invention of the steam engine, from the population explosion to the likely consequences of climate change. It ends with a confident assertion that thanks to the ceaseless capacity of the human race for innovative change, and despite inevitable disasters along the way, the twenty-first century will see both human prosperity and natural biodiversity enhanced. Acute, refreshing, and revelatory, *The Rational Optimist* will change your way of thinking about the world for the better.