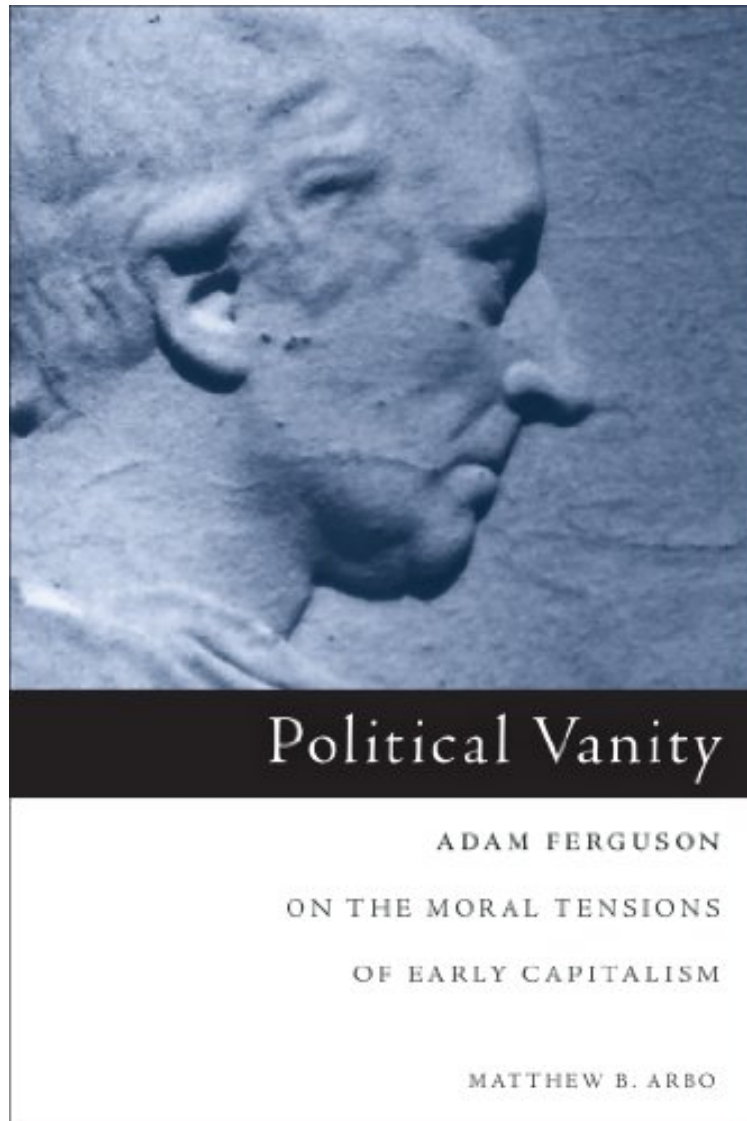


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Political Vanity: Adam Ferguson on the Moral Tensions of Early Capitalism

Matthew B. Arbo

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Matthew B. Arbo : Political Vanity: Adam Ferguson on the Moral Tensions of Early Capitalism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Political Vanity: Adam Ferguson on the Moral Tensions of Early Capitalism:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Is Capitalism Inherently "Right?" By jdodgex6 "The society pursuant of commercial gain as its principal object will become weak and susceptible to domination and enslavement" (p. 143). Thus a two-century-old warning bell tolls and should be heard today - perhaps more than ever. Arbo does Ferguson a

tremendous service by giving him a contemporary voice. Full disclosure: I am neither a philosopher nor a political theorist. Had I been either, I am confident that I would have benefited even more from this work. Nevertheless, Arbo kept me apace and caused this reader to contemplate, "What ought we to do about this?"

Political Vanity aims to illuminate the central debates over the historical, moral, and political legitimacy of market capitalism as though still profoundly theological in character. This theological sensitivity is achieved by keeping conversation with central theorists of the Scottish Enlightenment, in particular the philosopher and sociologist Adam Ferguson. Ferguson was a contemporary of Hume and Smith, and actively questioned many of the pillars of early capitalism on theological grounds. Namely:

About the Author Matthew B. Arbo is assistant professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.