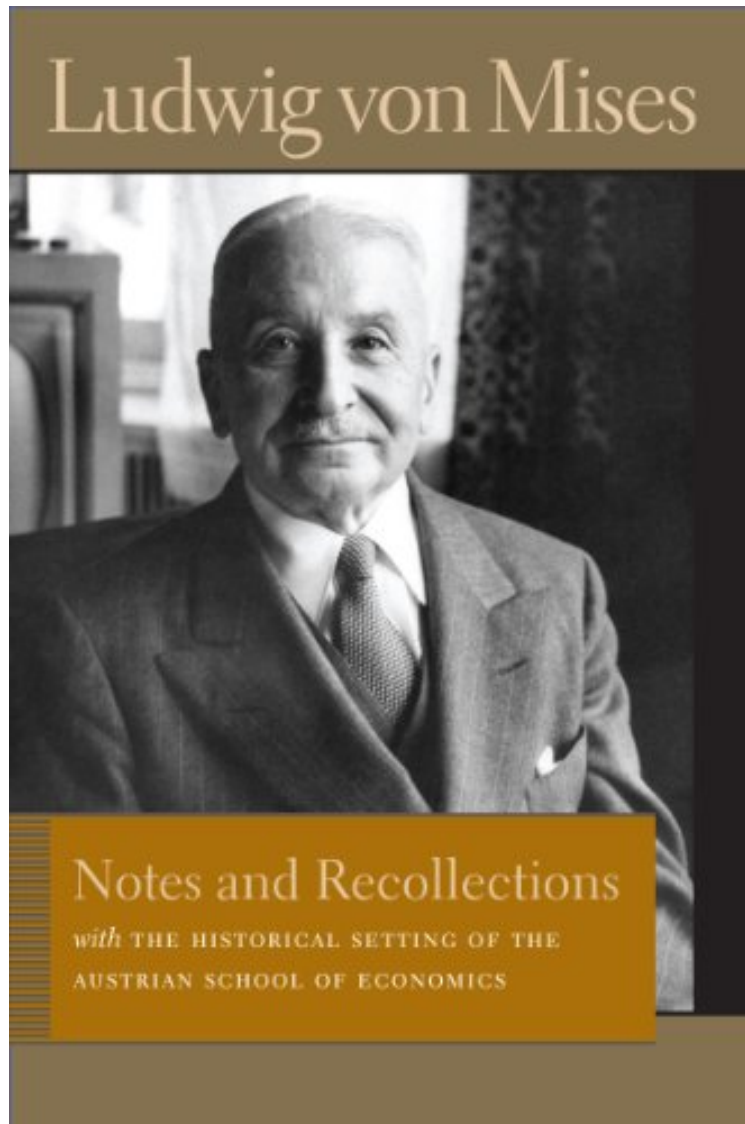


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(Liberty Fund Library of the Works of Ludwig Von Mises)

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Ludwig von Mises : Notes and Recollections with The Historical Setting of the Austrian School of Economics (Liberty Fund Library of the Works of Ludwig Von Mises) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Notes and Recollections with The Historical Setting of the Austrian School of Economics (Liberty Fund Library of the Works of Ludwig Von Mises):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. "In his search for truth, which is the foundation of all knowledge, Ludwig von Mises was unyielding to the end." By Clay Garner

The courage to defend moral convictions when the world was losing its moral foundations is a heartwarming part of this book. Mises suffered for his fight. He was not defeated. Foretold the ruinous inflation and then had to leave for being correct. Nazi's had his name before they came to Austria. Good coverage of the cultural developments that led to WW1 and 2. Explains the appeal of Communism at that time and to him as a youth. Why he changed his thinking.

I. Historicism
 II. Etatism
 III. The Austrian Problem
 IV. The Austrian School of Economics
 V. First Writings on the Theory of Money
 VI. The Theory of Money and Credit
 VII. First World War
 VIII. With the Chamber of Commerce
 IX. My Teaching Activities in Vienna
 X. Scientific Work in Germany
 XI. Further Inquiries into Indirect Exchange
 XII. Systems of Social Cooperation
 XIII. Epistemological Studies
 XIV. My Teaching in Geneva
 XV. The Struggle for Austria's Survival

Postscript by Hans F. Sennholz

THE HISTORICAL SETTING OF THE AUSTRIAN SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

I. Carl Menger and the Austrian School of Economics
 II. The Conflict with the German Historical School
 III. The Place of the Austrian School of Economics in the Evolution of Economics

Makes a clear connection between morality and good economics. The best explanation of why positivism is a failure that I have found. Excellent analysis of German historicism. Relates his efforts to prevent inflation when he was Austria's economic's minister and why he failed. Explains why most Austrians wanted the Anschluss.

Page 89, "economic statistics is a method of economic history; theoretical insight cannot be won from it. . . Mathematics and physics are undergoing a severe crisis from which they will emerge in a new form. . . Mathematicians and physicists are beginning -rather belatedly-to perceive logical and epistemological problems," I agree. See Kline, "Mathematics, the Loss of Certainty."

Mises' heartfelt concern for his fellow man shows here - "It has been said that the problem lies with public education and information. But we are badly deceived to believe that more schools and lectures, or a popularization of books and journals could promote the right doctrine to victory. In fact, false doctrines can recruit their followers the same way. The evil consists precisely in the people's intellectual disqualifications to choose the means that lead to the desired objectives. The fact that facile decisions can be foisted onto people demonstrates that they are incapable of independent judgment. This is precisely the great danger. I thus had arrived at this hopeless pessimism that for a long time had burdened the best minds of Europe." "We know today from the letters of Jacob Burckhardt that this great historian, too, had no illusions about the future of European civilization. This pessimism had broken the strength of Carl Menger, and it over-shadowed the life of Max Weber. (In the last months of the war Weber lectured for one semester at the University of Vienna, when we became good friends.) It is a matter of temperament how we shape our lives in the knowledge of an inescapable catastrophe." "In high school I had chosen a verse by Virgil as my motto: Tu ne cede malis sed contra audentior ito (‘Do not yield to the bad, but always oppose it with courage’). In the darkest hours of the war, I recalled this dictum. Again and again I faced situations from which rational deliberations could find no escape. But then something unexpected occurred that brought deliverance. I would not lose courage even now. I would do everything an economist could do. I would not tire in professing what I knew to be right. And so I decided to write a book on socialism which I had contemplated before the war." (1044)

The genuine love, heartfelt concern, sadness at seeing western civilization self-destruct, is moving. Blunt words, but never unwarranted. A professor of integrity with compassion for truth and disgust for lies. Who can do any more?

Published for the first time together in one volume is Ludwig von Mises's Notes and Recollections with The Historical Setting of the Austrian School of Economics. After Mises died, in 1973, Mrs. Margit von Mises found the German-language manuscript for Notes and Recollections among his papers. It had been written between 1940 and 1941, shortly after he arrived in the United States. Notes and Recollections could be described as Mises's pre-1940 intellectual autobiography; it tells how he developed his theories, wrote his books, lectured, and taught; it describes his life in Vienna and the people with whom he worked. This text includes a foreword by Mrs. Mises and a postscript by Hans Sennholz. Historical Setting is a 45-page essay originally published in English in 1969, and it also reveals Mises's intellectual development in the context of the origins of the Austrian School. It serves as a good introduction to the theory of the Austrian School as well as to its history.

About the Author Ludwig von Mises (1881-1973) was a preeminent philosopher and economist during the twentieth century. He shared an intellectual friendship with literary giant Ayn Rand, and his theorems and philosophies have continued to influence the careers and ideas of politicians and economists alike.