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Adam Smith is the founder of the classical school of political economy.

Adam Smith (1723–1790) was a Scottish economist, philosopher, and author. He was a moral philosopher, a pioneer of political economy and a key figure during the Scottish Enlightenment era. He is best known for two classic works: “The Theory of Moral Sentiments” (1759), and “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations” (1776).

The subject of study of Adam Smith in modern society is its inherent economic relations. Smith perceived a bourgeois society as a natural, appropriate human nature. He saw economic life of the society as a process independent of the desires of individuals’ laws.

The author of the “Wealth of Nations” introduces the modern famous concept of “economic individual” and the “invisible hand”.

A. Smith characterized the “economic individual” as the one seeking the personal enrichment of the perfect egoist, namely: “Give me what I want and you shall get what you want – it is the meaning of every such offer; and it is this way that we obtain from one another the far greater part of those good services which we stand in need of”.

Further this idea he developed by a very interesting concept of growth, separation of labor, and in fact by the doctrine of technological progress as the main means of wealth growth “of any country at all times”.

In his book the meaning of the “invisible hand” is to promote such social conditions and rules under which free competition of entrepreneurs and through their private interests, the market economy is the best way to solve social problems. He seems to be speaking about it casually, drawing the reader's attention to the fact that “every individual has a mind of their own benefit and not the benefit of the society, and in this case, the invisible hand is approaching the target”.

In the same vein, Adam Smith formulated the main task of political economy as follows: “The main task of political economy of every country is to increase its wealth and power”.

Conclusions.

1. The essence of the outstanding talent of Smith as a thinker is the fact that he managed to create a General Theory of the capitalist mode of production.

2. Meanwhile, many of the ideas of the “classics of bourgeois political economy” have not lost its relevance and can be effectively applied in terms of not only a fledgling, but highly developed market economy.