

### **Adam Smith's non-utilitarianism**

The classical economists, John Stuart Mill included, based their theories in Adam Smith's system. At some point, they labelled it as a "utilitarian" theory. The main objective of this contribution is to show that Smith was non-utilitarian, and even anti-utilitarian. Although Smith's motivation as a philosopher should not be confused with the principles he defends in his system, a leitmotif of his work is demonstrating that the search for what has been useful or is supposed to be useful in the future, is not the grounds for human action. Actually, Smith's theory is a direct criticism of Hume's idea of utility, something of which Hume was perfectly aware. In particular, Smith's can be labelled as a *creative present theory* and we can find a Smithian concept of time as a core element of his 'system'.

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