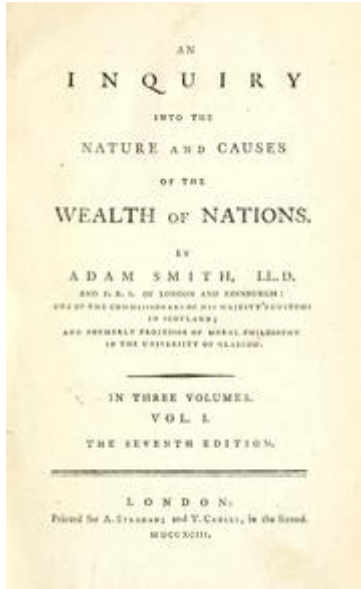


# Alison Flood ~ The 20 Most Influential Academic Books Of All Time: No Spoilers



*The Guardian* ~ *Open Culture*. Sometimes I'll meet someone who mentions having written a book, and who then adds, "... well, an *academic* book, anyway," as if that didn't really count. True, academic books don't tend to debut at the heights of the bestseller lists amid all the eating, praying, and loving, but sometimes lightning strikes; sometimes the subject of the author's research happens to align with what the public believes they need to know. Other times, academic books succeed at a slower burn, and it takes readers generations to come around to the insights contained in them — a less favorable royalty situation for the long-dead writer, but

at least they can take some satisfaction in the possibility.

The shortlist of these most important academic books of all time runs as follows (and you can read many of them free by following the links from our meta list of Free eBooks):

*Amongst others:*

Stephen Hawking ~ *A Brief History of Time*

Immanuel Kant ~ *Critique of Pure Reason*

Germaine Greer ~ *The Female Eunuch*

Niccolò Machiavelli ~ *The Prince*

Adam Smith ~ *The Wealth of Nations*

<http://www.openculture.com/the-20-most-influential-academic-books>