



America's Neglected Protectionist Tradition

The Economics that Forged a Nation

By Mathew A. Frith

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Rediscovered the economic ideas that built America by offering the most comprehensive treatment of the American protectionist school of economic thought – tracing its origins from Alexander Hamilton and Tench Coxe, and highlighting the School's dynamic, invention-driven vision as a rival to English classical economics.

America's Neglected Protectionist Tradition offers the most comprehensive treatment of the American protectionist school of economic thought, which originated with the ideas of Alexander Hamilton and Tench Coxe, and remained active throughout the nineteenth century. The work provides a systematic account of the philosophy and theory of this neglected economic tradition.

Key selling points

- Makes an original contribution to the history of economic thought by rediscovering a neglected economic tradition.
- Offers fresh material for historians of economic thought as the analysis is informed by an extensive examination of primary sources.
- Demonstrates that there is a deep and sophisticated tradition of protectionism dating back to America's founding, which provides historical depth to current debates on free trade and protectionism
Presents a challenge to economic orthodoxy by recovering a comprehensive theoretical alternative to free trade economics.
- Provides a valuable historical perspective for understanding the resurgence of protectionist policies and current debates on trade and industrial policy

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Mathew A. Frith is an Australian economist specialising in American protectionist thought. He received his PhD from Federation University Australia in 2024 and is currently an economics lecturer at the University of New England (Australia).

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