



The Theory of Social Revolutions

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By Brooks Adams (1848-1927)

Brooks Adams (1848-1927) was an American historian and a critic of capitalism. He believed that commercial civilizations rise and fall in predictable cycles. First, masses of people draw together in large population centers and engage in commercial activities. As their desire for wealth grows, they discard spiritual and creative values. Their greed leads to distrust and dishonesty, and eventually the society crumbles. In *The Law of Civilisation and Decay* (1895), Adams noted that as new population centers emerged in the west, centers of world trade shifted from Constantinople to Venice to Amsterdam to London. He predicted in *America's Economic Supremacy* (1900) that New York would become the centre for world trade.

The Theory of Social Revolutions was written in 1913. (Wikipedia)

Read by Kehinde. Total running time: 05:01:08.

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