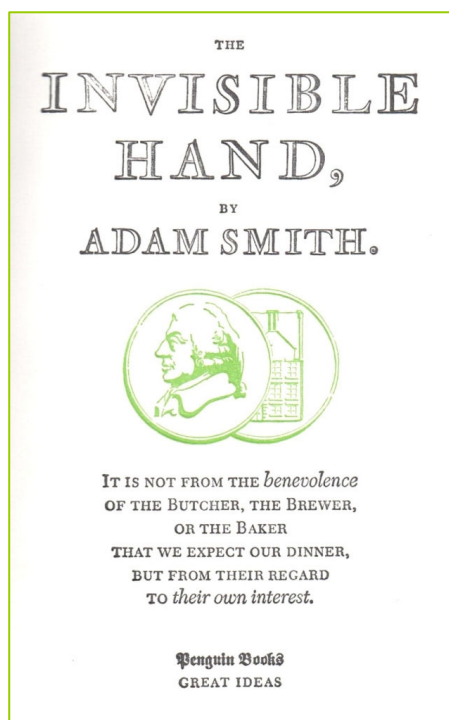


Uhæmmet markedsøkonomi

Per-Olof Johansson



The Invisible Hand by Adam Smith – Penguin Books 2008
– a selection from
The Wealth of Nations.

Det lader ikke til at anfægte tilhængere af den uhæmmede markedsøkonomi, at dens grundsætning om, at det fælles bedste opnås ved at enhver arbejder uhæmmet for sin egeninteresse, igen igen har fået sig et grundskud, åbenbaret ved finanskrisen 2008. Grundtesen, hentet hos Adam Smith: The Wealth of Nations er denne:

*“He generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it. By preferring the support of domestic to that of foreign industry, he intends only his own security; and by directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, he intends only his own gain; and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. Nor is it always the worse for the society that it was no part of it. **By pursuing his own interest, he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it.**”*

“It is not from the benevolence of the butcher the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We

address ourselves, not to their humanity, but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities, but of their advantages.”

Hvad tilhængere af den uhæmmede markedsøkonomi glemte at læse hos Adam Smith, var måske disse linjer:

“Every man, as long as he does not violate the laws of justice, is left perfectly free to pursue his own interest his own way, and bring both his industry and capital into competition with those of any other man, or order of men.”

Altså **“as long as he does not violate the laws of justice”!** Tilhængere af den uhæmmede markedsøkonomi sætter deres lid til, at blot de optræder som “The Invisible Hands” går de fri – skønt det var noget Ganske andet, den gode Adam mente.

For han skrev også

“The directors of such companies, however, being the managers rather of other people's money than of their own, it cannot well be expected that they should watch over it with the same anxious vigilance with which the partners in a private copartnery frequently watch over their own.... Negligence and profusion, therefore, must always prevail, more or less, in the management of the affairs of such a company.” (Adam Smith: The Wealth of Nations bog 5, kap2, del 2.)

– for tydelighedens skyld her citeret efter John Kenneth Galbraith:

Økonomiens profeter, 1988, s. 69 på dansk af Michael Meyerheim:

”Hvis de er bestyrere af andre folks penge i stedet for af deres egne, kan det ikke med rimelighed forventes, at de skal vogte over dem med samme årvågenhed, som partnere i et privat medejerskab ofte vogter over deres egen...Forsømmelse og ødselhed vil derfor være mere eller mindre fremherskende i ledelsen af kompagniets forretninger”.

Ja, mon ikke det er det vi har oplevet i et uhyggeligt omfang!

Download for free:

Adam Smith:

The Wealth of Nations

<http://political-economy.com/wealth-of-nations-adam-smith/>