

Abstract

Bachelor thesis „The birth of The Economist“ deals with the birth and evolution of the weekly newspaper The Economist. That is from 1843, when it was founded, to 2007, when John Micklethwait became its editor. The main emphasis is laid on the birth of The Economist. The atmosphere of those times, the social situation in England in the middle of the nineteenth century and the pass and repeal of the Corn Laws is dealt with in order to describe the birth of The Economist more accurately. The situation at the media market is also described.

A part of the thesis is dedicated to the economical thinking of Adam Smith, Thomas R. Malthus and David Ricardo. And to the doctrines of laissez-faire and free trade, which were the main motive, or more specifically their pursuit, for the foundation of The Economist. A longer part of the thesis is dedicated to the lives and personalities of the founder of The Economist James Wilson and his son-in-law Walter Bagehot, who was the third editor of The Economist. These two men are the most important figures in the history of The Economist, and have contributed like nobody else to its development.

A part of the thesis is describing the first numbers of The Economist and its readers, supporters and opponents. The last part of the thesis is dedicated to a brief description of the evolution of The Economist from its birth to the present days.