

Roland Boer and Christina Petterson, *Idols of Nations: Biblical Myth at the Origins of Capitalism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2014. Pages, 207. Paper, \$29.00.

Down through the ages, political theories and practices have often been influenced, if not shaped, by people's interpretation of various passages from the Bible. This dynamic should not surprise us if we are familiar with the way biblical writers of both testaments called for economic justice in their day. In this book Boer and Petterson show how early theories of capitalism grew out of interpretations of biblical themes such as the Garden of Eden, the first sin, and predestination, interpretations popular at the time. Though this is not really a study of the Bible itself, it uncovers how one's understanding of the Bible can significantly affect the lives of others. It not only captures the thinking of an earlier period of economic history but also awakens the reader to the power that narrow interpretation can exercise