

Eminent Investors as Historians

Course Description

In this discussion class, we will study how three famous investors—George Soros, Robert Shiller, and Ray Dalio—grounded their strategies on their analyses of the past. Although not trained as historians, they looked carefully at what happened in the 19th and 20th centuries to justify their predictions for the future and their investment decisions in the present.

Weekly Layout:

Irrational Exuberance. Discuss excerpts from Robert Shiller's book (2015 ed.)

Narrative Economics. Discuss excerpts from another book by Shiller (2019)

How George Soros predicted the financial crisis of 2008 (several articles)

George Soros' theory of "reflexivity" as the key to understanding the past (a book chapter)

Ray Dalio, hedge fund star, on The Changing World Order: Why Nations Succeed and Fail (2021) (online excerpts & Dalio speech)