

# Natural Wealth and Natural Goods in Epicureanism

Post by “Pacatus” of July 21, 2022 at 2:51 PM

[Cassius](#)

From an ethical economics (oikonomia) point of view:

On the investment side of things, I would suggest productive/unproductive in supplying people's needs.

On the consumption side, I would suggest that (1) Epicurus' formulation on the naturalness & necessity of desires, and (2) the pleasure/pain hedonic calculus (toward eudaimonia - which I think of as sustainable happy well-being) would work.

Savings versus consumption decisions might connect the two (how much do I spend to meet my needs, and how much do I save - both to meet future consumption needs and to go toward productive investment?).

With regard to income/wealth distribution, I think one needs to define the concepts of just and unjust (in Epicurean terms). Maybe some synthesis of the utilitarian “the greatest good for the greatest number” and Rawls' theory of justice that any inequality in social and economic arrangements should give greater benefit to the least advantaged, each idea being modified by the other. And I wouldn't think we need to get much more complex than that, with regard to either theory. (Though Rawls included a personal liberty principle and an equal opportunity principle, all three principles needing to be balanced.) I'm not sure either one can stand on its own, but its been a long time since I really looked at them.

That's still pretty conceptual, as opposed to practical. (And I have just begun Philodemus). And I'm a bit tired today, so maybe not having a lot of clarity. 😞