

Trained Incapacity: Thorstein Veblen and Kenneth Burke.

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Abstract:

Recently, a leading sociologist claimed that the phrase "trained incapacity" does not appear in the works of Thorstein Veblen. Kenneth Burke, who attributed the phrase to Veblen in *Permanence and Change*, was later unsure of its origins. However, that, indeed, Veblen did coin the term, using it particularly in reference to problematic tendencies in business. In addition, Burke, on the other hand, gave the term an expansive application to human symbol-using generally.

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