This paper presents a sketch of evolution of the notion *homo oeconomicus*. Roots of the concept dating from the philosophy of the British Enlightenment (Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill) were described, where the exact expression were never used. Theoretical construct as originally *homo oeconomicus* was, in gestation of economical thought was isolated from its genuine context, and started to be often regarded as the vision of human nature. It became a basis for neoclassical, mathematical, school of economics. A polemic with the model a man as exclusively egoistic and rational commenced. It was conducted from different points of view, amongst them: economical theories and behaviorism. However, the inappropriate approach cannot be generalized, due to continuators and defenders of Smithian understanding of the notion.

*Translated by Katarzyna Zofia Gdowska and Anna Markwart*