Yes, Benjamin Franklin was a pragmatist, and his pragmatic spirit was a key part of his success: [1, 2, 3]

Practical results

Franklin believed that what mattered was the practical results of improving himself and making others happy. [3]

Experimental approach

Franklin's pragmatism included an experimental approach and an orientation toward human progress. [1]

Resistance to dogma

Franklin's philosophy was unique in its resistance to dogma. [2]

Championed virtues

Franklin championed virtues like industriousness, frugality, and common sense, and believed they were foundational to a prosperous society. [2]

Understood virtues as habits

Franklin believed that virtues were habits or skills that could be improved through practice. [4]

Franklin's biographer Walter Isaacson claims that Franklin laid the foundation for American pragmatism. Franklin's pragmatic spirit was closely tied to his life experiences, including growing up in a poor family in Boston and dropping out of school at age 10 to work in the family trade business. [3, 5]

Generative AI is experimental.

[1] https://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ells/article/view/49522
[2] http://mastersinvest.com/newblog/2024/5/9/the-munger-series-learning-from-benjamin-franklin
[3] https://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ells/article/download/49522/26690
[4] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254965724_Ole_Ben_Franklin_the_Pragmatist_On_the_Philosophical_Credentials_of_an_American_Founder
[5] https://muse.jhu.edu/article/467713/summary