



Economics 经济学

Lester B. Lave (美) 著

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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赵世人 译

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序 言

英语学习，除了在课堂内下工夫外，课外的阅读也很重要。课外除了读文学类的文章，也要读一些非文学类的文章。这套“小书”就是非文学类的文章，涉及文学以外的许多领域和学科。每本书都由一两个相关的主题构成，图文并茂，融知识性和可读性于一体。这些“小书”谈到的很多东西都和我们的日常生活息息相关；更重要的是“小书”体现了人类要与自然和谐发展的思想，这与我们社会和时代的发展是吻合的。读一些这方面的书不仅有利于学生提高英语水平，拓宽自己的视野，也符合当今大学生要全面发展的要求。在“复合型”人才越来越受重视的今天，我很乐意向大学生朋友推荐这套“小书”。


(郑树棠)

《新视野大学英语》总主编
首届“国家级教学名师奖”获得者

conomics deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. In a market economy consumers rather than governments determine what and how much is produced, but public policy in the interests of the people needs to play an essential role in preventing economic activity from damaging the environment and endangering human health and welfare.

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Economics

经济学

The word *economics* is used to mean two different things: “a theory on how to use resources” and “a body of information on the economy.” An economy answers the questions:

- (1) What is to be produced?
- (2) How is each good and service to be produced?
- (3) How much should be produced?
- (4) Who will work to produce these





goods and services? (5) Who will consume what is produced?

经济学这个词被用来表达两个不同的意思：“研究如何利用资源的理论”以及“关于经济的大量信息”。经济解释了如下问题：(1) 生产什么？(2) 如何生产商品和服务？(3) 应该生产多少？(4) 谁来生产这些商品和服务？(5) 谁来消费生产出的商品和服务？

In a market economy, consumers have the most influence on what—and how much of—each good and service is produced. Each consumer has an effect by deciding how much to purchase. So consumers answer questions (1) and



(3). Producers answer question (2) within society's laws and regulations. A market economy answers question (4) when producers do things such as offer wages to hire workers or buy raw materials.



在市场经济中，消费者对生产什么商品和服务以及生产多少最具影响力。每一个消费者通过其决定购买的数量对经济产生影响。因此，消费者对问题（1）和（3）作出了回答。制造商在社会的法律、法规允许的范围内，对问题（2）作出了回答。在制造商向雇佣的工人支付工资或购买原材料的市场经济中，问题（4）得到了回答。

Bullet Points

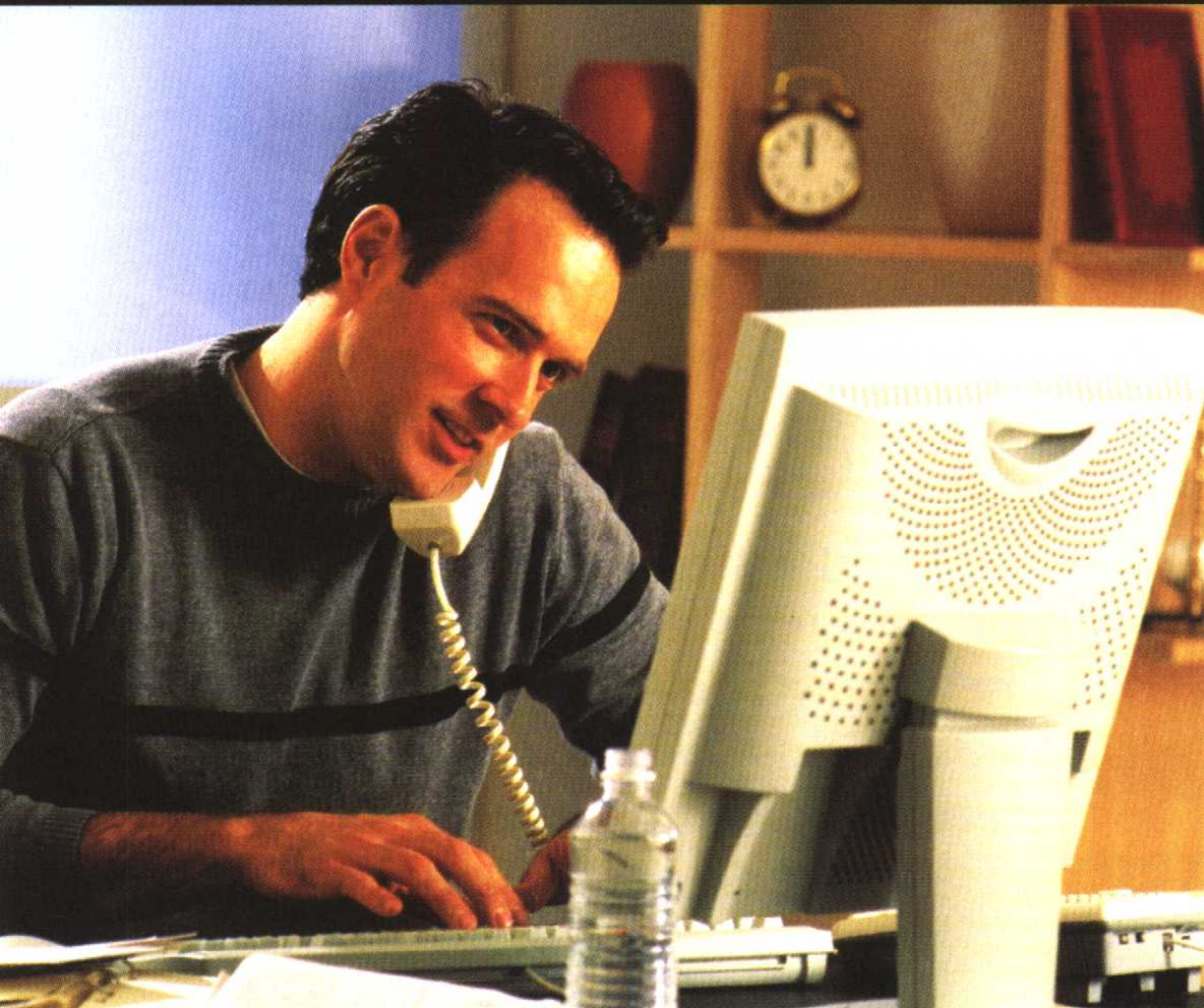
- *Principles of market economics such as productivity, consumption, and scarcity have helped environmentalists develop theories of the economics of renewable and nonrenewable resources.*

相关信息

- 生产率、消费和稀缺性等市场经济学原理，帮助环境论者发展了可再生和不可再生资源的经济学理论。

Markets work by providing incentives to consumers, workers, producers, and property owners. For instance, if there are too few computer programmers, the wages of programmers will rise, attracting more people to become programmers. Question (5) is answered through the process of providing income to consumers and revenue to

companies and government. The higher the income to consumers and the higher the revenue to companies or government, the greater their purchasing power will be.



市场是通过刺激消费者、劳动者、制造商及财产所有人的欲望而运作的。比如说，如果电脑程序员供不应求，那么程序员的工资就会上涨，因此会吸引更多人去做程序员。通过向消费者提供收入、向政府和公司提供收益的过程，也就回答了问题（5）。消费者的收入越高，政府和公司的收益越高，他们的购买力也就越强。



The U.S. Market Economy

美国的市场经济



Economists marvel that an economy as complicated as that of the United States is able to function without centralized organization. No one gives orders to ensure that milk and bread are produced and delivered to stores, for instance. No one orders steel mills to produce raw material for building cars

and bridges. Somehow, the free market's distribution system is able to offer millions of goods and services every day. Of course the economy does not work perfectly. Problems exist, such as pockets of unemployment and periodic unemployment due to business cycles. Occasionally shortages of goods lead to rapid price increases.

令经济学家感到诧异的是像美国这样复杂的经济，竟然能在没有集中管理机构的情况下运作自如。举个例子，没有人下令说要保证牛奶和面包的生产，并送到各家商铺里去；没有人下令说炼钢厂要为制造汽车和建造桥梁生产原材料。不管怎样，自由市



场的配销体系每天都可以提供数以百万计的商品和服务。当然，市场经济的运作也并非十全十美，仍然存在着一些问题，如由于商业周期引起的周期性失业以及失业人员囊中羞涩。有时，商品短缺也会导致价格飙升。



The most persistent problems, however, come when government tries to override market forces. Legislators sometimes forget that it is almost impossible to change one part of the economy without affecting the rest of it.

当政府试图无视市场力量的作用时，问题也就来了，并会带来无尽的困扰。立法者有时容易忽视的是如果对经济的某一方面进行调整，便几乎不可能不影响到经济的其他方面。

