

# Capital & Resources 资本·资源

Edward F. Denison (美) 著  
Anthony C. Fisher (美)

外语教学与研究出版社  
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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赵世人 张东英 译

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

北京 BEIJING

京权图字：01 - 2004 - 3078

© 2004 Marshall Cavendish Corporation

Published previously as part of *The Environment Encyclopedia*

© 2001 Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 99 White Plains Road,  
Tarrytown, New York 10591

This edition is produced under license by Foreign Language  
Teaching and Research Press 2004

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

资本·资源/(美)丹尼森(Denison, E. F.), (美)费希尔(Fisher, A. C.)著;赵世人,张东英译. —北京:外语教学与研究出版社, 2004.12

ISBN 7 - 5600 - 4629 - 0

I. 资… II. ①丹… ②费… ③赵… ④张… III. 英语—对  
照读物—英、汉 IV. H319.4: F<sup>032</sup>

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 131046 号

出版人: 李朋义

责任编辑: 周 晶

装帧设计: 潘振宇

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京新丰印刷厂

开 本: 889×1194 1/64

印 张: 1

版 次: 2005 年 2 月第 1 版 2005 年 2 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7 - 5600 - 4629 - 0

定 价: 5.50 元

\* \* \*

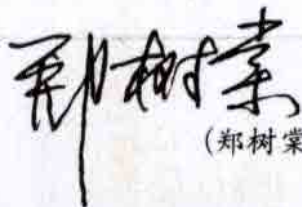
如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

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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

## Introduction

**W**here do goods and services come from? Physical capital, such as natural resources and machinery, together with nonphysical capital, such as human labor and expertise, produces goods and services. Productivity—or the rate at which goods and services are produced—has risen dramatically in the modern world to the great benefit of many people but often to the detriment of environmental quality.

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# Capital 资本

**C**apital can be characterized in three ways. First, capital is something produced by labor or work. Second, capital increases productivity (how much is produced). Third, capital lasts a long time—usually longer than one year.

资本包含着三层意思。首先，资本是劳动或工作的产物。其



次，资本可提高劳动生产率（即产量）。第三，资本的寿命较长——通常在一年以上。

Capital can be physical or nonphysical. Examples of physical capital include buildings, refineries, delivery trucks, and carpenters' tools. Examples of nonphysical capital include human capital—the education and training that make workers more productive. Capital also includes discoveries and new technologies.





资本既可以是有形的，也可以是无形的。有形资本包括建筑物、冶炼厂、送货卡车和木工工具等。无形资本的例子有人力资本——提高工人劳动生产率的教育和培训。此外，资本还包括了新技术和新发现。



*The Value of Labor*  
**劳动价值**

*Labor ranks as the most important renewable resource in the United States. In the 1990s, more than 60 percent of the population aged sixteen and older was employed. Labor services accounted for about three-fourths of the gross national product (GNP).*

在美国，劳动力是最重要的可再生资源。20世纪90年代，16岁和16岁以上的人口中，有超过60%的人受到雇用。劳动力创造的价值占国民生产总值的四分之三左右。

*Investments in human capital in the form of education and training make labor more productive. The rate of return on human capital investments ranges between 10 percent and 15 percent and compares favorably with other types of capital investments. It is estimated that over half of all national wealth is in the form of human capital.*

以教育和培训的形式对人力资本进行投资大大提高了劳动生产率。和其他类型的资本投资相比，投资于人力资本的回报率要更加可观，介于10%到15%之间。据估计，人力资本占国家全部财富的一半以上。

*Labor productivity can also be increased by managerial practices that motivate effort and ingenuity. Financial incentives such as bonuses and commissions, penalties such as suspension or termination from work for poor performance, and elaborate systems of social and psychological workforce motivators have been used to increase labor productivity. Education and training, improvements in work processes, and management incentive practices have raised labor productivity in the United States by more than 3 percent a year since the late 1930s.*

通过管理实践，可以促进人的劳动积极性和创造力，也可以提高劳动生产率。为了提高生产率，人们想尽了各种办法，引进了奖金、佣金等经济激励手段，也实施了因工作表现不佳中止或解除劳动雇佣关系等惩罚措施，还精心设计了促进人们工作的社会和心理激励机制。通过教育培训、改进工作流程以及在管理方面采取激励措施，美国的劳动生产率从20世纪30年代后期开始，年增幅达到了3%以上。

People use or invest their labor to create physical capital. For example, a boat constructed by a fisherman will make future fish production more efficient. A fisherman with a boat and a net is many times more productive than one without this capital.

人类利用或投入劳动来创造有形资本。比方说，一个渔民造了一艘船，他今后打鱼的效率就可以得到提高。拥有渔船和鱼网的渔民，比起不占有这些“资本”的同行来，他的劳动生产率就要高出许多倍。



## **Bullet Points**

- *Capital refers to concrete products, such as coal and the products of ranching and agriculture.*
- *Capital can also refer to less tangible quality of life issues, such as the pleasure gained from looking at a wildflower or the benefits of having a healthy, educated, working population.*

## **相关信息**

- 资本指的是具体的产品，如煤炭、农畜产品等。
- 资本也可以指相对无形的生活品质，如因欣赏野花获得的愉悦，或因拥有健康且受过教育的就业人口而得到的好处等。

# Capital and Technological Changes

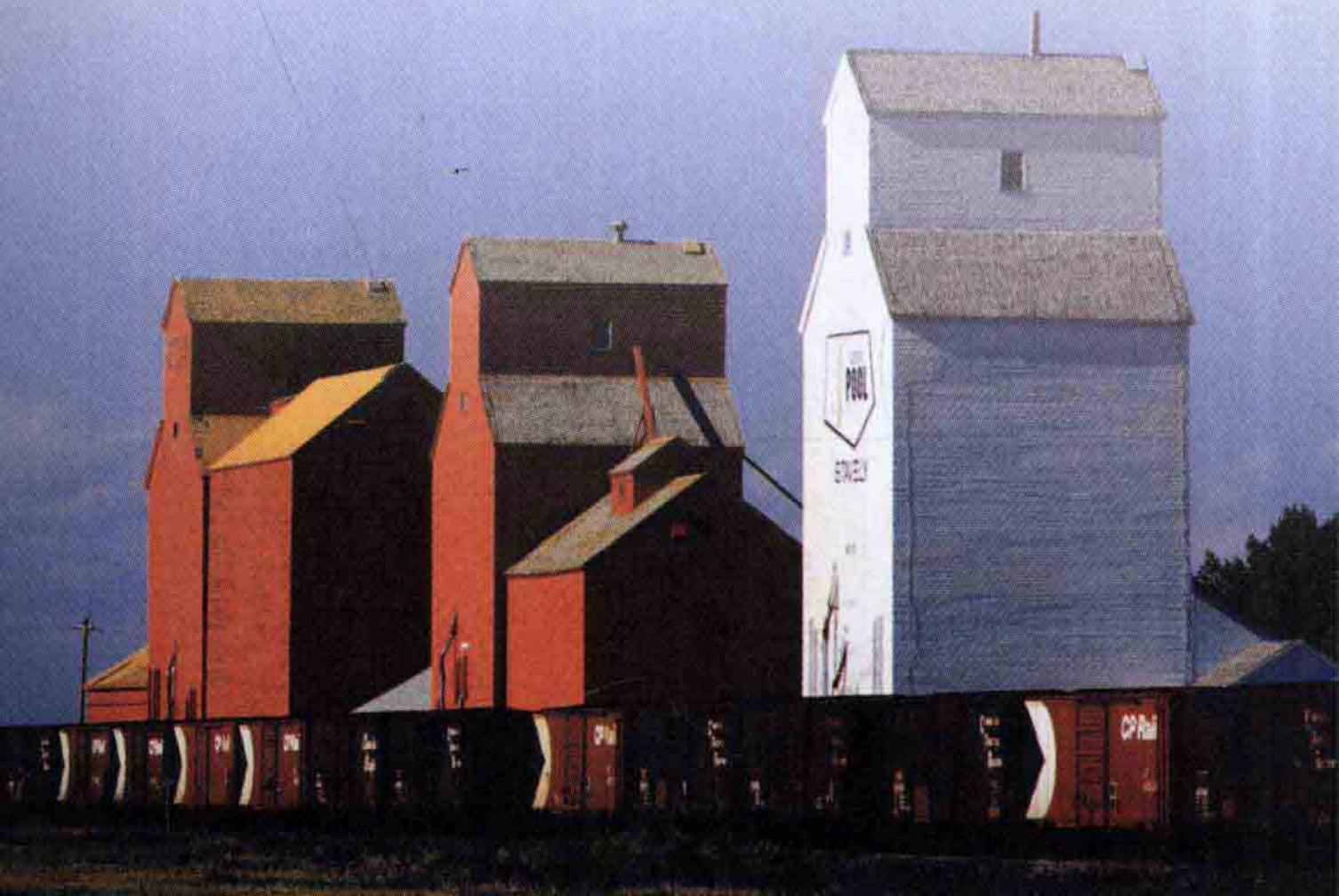
## 资本和技术变革




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**W**hile physical capital is important, the most productive investments in the twentieth century have been in education and research and development. The capital and scientific and technological knowledge that resulted from this

educational investment are the foundation of modern economies and societies. Such technical capital is vital for building and improving transportation, including automobiles, trains, aircraft, and spaceships. Technical knowledge makes it possible to fill human





Capital can be physical, such as cattle, or nonphysical, such as the knowledge that comes with education and training. Capital can also be something that increases productivity, such as a railroad. Physical trains are the result of nonphysical capital, such as technological discoveries.

资本可以是有形的，也可以是无形的。例如牛是有形的，教育和培训带来的知识，就是无形的。资本可以提高生产力，铁路就是这样，火车是有形资本，实际上它是技术发明这个无形资本的产物。



