Edwin Mansfield

ECONOMICS



FOURTH EDITION

Economics

PHNCIPLES, PROBLEMS, DECISIONS

EDWIN MANSFIELD

UNIERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOURTH EDITION



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To Edward Deering Mansfiel (1801–1880) and his brother-in-law Charle Davies (1798–1876) neither of whom should be hid responsible for the views expressed here.

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Preface

This edition, like its predecessors, emphasizes the importance of economics as a guide to decision making. It does so by taking principles beyond the classroom and demonstrating how those principles actually can be used in the operation of business firms ranging in size and market power from a corner drugstore to a multinational corporation, in the routines of a typical household, and in the activities of the largest economic institution of all, the federal government.

Any principles text must keep current with the state of economic knowledge, especially as it applies to the economic issues of the day. The Fourth Edition does that, in ways I outline below. But the most sweeping change in this edition is not one of organization or style; it concerns the role of the textbook vis à vis the student.

Most textbooks do not encourage the student to get involved in the subject. They simply lay out the material, leaving the student to absorb it passively. Economics, however, need not be a spectator sport. In this edition I invite the student to do economics in order to understand it better. The book contains over seventy examples; each describes a real (or realistic) situation and then calls on the reader to work through the solution. Within each chapter there are two problem sets, both designated "Test Yourself," that enable students to check their comprehension of what they have just read. At the end of each chapter is a case, generally based on real data, that gives rise to a number of detailed questions that students can answer on the strength of their reading of the chapter. (Answers to the Test Yourself sections and the end-of-chapter cases appear in the Instructor's Manual. Answers to the Test Yourself sections also appear in the Study Guide.)

This combination of learning devices is similar to what one might find in a chemistry or physics text. They are, I believe, appropriate to an economics text as well, since economics no less than physics or chemistry requires constant shuttling back and forth from the concrete to the abstract. In emphasis, organization, and design, this edition has, quite literally, a fresh look. While dozens of sections have been recast, the most extensive changes can be summarized briefly:

New Emphases. Three topics have received much more attention in this new edition than in its predecessor.

- 1. A new chapter (Chapter 9) has been added on aggregate demand and aggregate supply curves. In the previous edition, there was a short discussion of these curves and their usefulness in economic analysis. Now this treatment has been expanded considerably, reflecting the fact that more and more instructors include aggregate demand and supply curves in their courses.
- 2. A new chapter (Chapter 20) has been added on America's recent productivity slowdown. Besides describing the causes and consequences of this slowdown, this chapter examines in detail many of the policies that have been proposed to increase U.S. productivity, and the measures that have been adopted. Also, considerable attention is devoted to our nation's policies toward civilian technology, which is at the core of this topic.
- 3. More attention has been given to supply-side economics and rational expectations theories, both of which have played an important role in many of the policy discussions of the 1980s. In Chapters 5 and 17, sections have been added on supply-side economics, dealing with the Laffer curve, the policy prescriptions of supply-side economists, and the relationship between supply-side economics and other schools of economics. In Chapter 17, rational expectations theories are given more prominence than in the previous edition.

New Organization. Four major changes have occurred in the organization of the book.

- 1. By careful editing, it has been possible to compress the introductory material that formerly constituted Chapters 1 to 3 into two chapters, not three. This allows the student to get more quickly into the heart of the subject.
- 2. A set of appendices, "Digging Deeper into the Economist's Tool Box," has been constructed, each of which contains important material that is sometimes considered too advanced for the elementary course. These appendices deal with IS and LM curves, isoquants and isocost curves, linear programming, input-output models, and optimal resource allocation. These appendices are grouped together at the end of the book.
- 3. The chapter on consumer behavior and rational choice is now after, not before, the chapter on market demand. Also, the material on indifference curves has been put into an appendix to the chapter on consumer behavior. These changes should make this part of the book conform more closely to most instructors' treatments of this subject.
- 4. The organization of the macroeconomic chapters has been altered somewhat, due to the addition of the new material on aggregate demand and supply curves. One advantage of the new organization is that an entire chapter is devoted to multiplier analysis and related topics.

Updating. All of the empirical and policy-oriented materials have been updated. Since a text should reflect current conditions and concerns, the government policies in all the major economic areas, fiscal, monetary, incomes, farm, energy, environmental, antitrust, and international, are reviewed in depth. The latest data available have been incorporated in the

tables, diagrams, and discussions, while revisions in sections on economic forecasting, the definition of money, reserve requirements, and a variety of other topics have brought them into line with current developments.

Other Improvements. A host of other changes have been made in all parts of the book. Key concepts like consumer's surplus and price discrimination have received more attention. New inserts have been added on David Stockman and OMB, as well as on the important new trends in collective bargaining. Old inserts have been rewritten. At the same time, many parts of the text have been simplified, and extraneous details have been purged. The process of revision left no chapter, section, paragraph, or sentence unexamined.

The New Design. The study of economics presents enough challenges without students being forced to cope with page after page of densely packed reading matter. The single column format, new in this edition, reduces the amount of words on each page; beyond that, it permits generous enough margins to accommodate many of the diagrams and tables. This results in an extremely close fit between written text and graphic material, minimizing the page flipping that understandably can be the source of much reader annoyance. As in previous editions, a second color has been used to lend emphasis to key movements and relationships in the diagrams. This time, in addition, the second color highlights crucial statements and definitions, making it decidedly easier for the reader to pick out those passages when reviewing a chapter.

This completes the conducted tour of the major changes. Since instructors differ considerably in their choice and ordering of topics, this book is organized for maximum flexibility. Many instructors take up microeconomics before macroeconomics. This book will work just as well for these instructors as for those who prefer to present macroeconomics first. (A suggested ordering of chapters is presented for them on p.xxiv.) As an alternative to reversing the chapter sequence in the one-volume editions, some instructors may want to consider the two-volume paperbound version, *Principles of Microeconomics* and *Principles of Macroeconomics*, fourth editions.

This book can also be adapted for use in one-semester courses. Pages xxiv-xxv present outlines for a one-semester course stressing microeconomics, a one-semester course stressing macroeconomics, and a one-semester course covering both.

As supplements to this text, I have prepared both a book of readings and a study guide containing problems and exercises. The book of readings is in two parts, *Principles of Macroeconomics: Readings, Issues, and Cases,* fourth edition, and *Principles of Microeconomics: Readings, Issues, and Cases,* fourth edition. It provides a substantial set of supplementary articles, carefully correlated with the text for instructors who want to introduce their students to the writings of major contemporary economists. It is designed to acquaint the student with a wide range of economic analysis, spanning the spectrum from the classics to the present-day radicals. The emphasis, as in the text, is on integrating theory, measurement, and applications.

The Study Guide, fourth edition, contains, in addition to problems, review questions, and tests, a large number of cases that require the student to work with quantitative material in applying concepts to practical situa-

tions. Also, the completion, multiple choice, and true-false questions have been made more challenging. Major efforts have been made to root out the less effective questions and insert ones that work better.

An *Instructor's Manual* has been prepared by Michael Claudon of Middlebury College to accompany the text. A *Test Item File*, prepared by Herbert Gishlick of Rider College, is available both in printed form and on computer tape. *Transparency Masters* are also available to instructors who adopt the text.

Finally, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the debts that I owe to the many teachers at various colleges and universities who have commented in detail on various parts of the manuscript. The first, second, and third editions benefited greatly from the advice I received from the following distinguished economists, none of whom is responsible, of course, for the outcome: Wallace Atherton, California State University at Long Beach; Bela Balassa, Johns Hopkins; Robert Baldwin, University of Wisconsin (Madison); Arthur Benavie, North Carolina; Lee Biggs, Montgomery College; Donald Billings, Boise State; William Branson, Princeton; Martin Bronfenbrenner, Duke; Edward Budd, Penn State; Phillip Burstein, Purdue; Wade Chio, U.S. Air Force Academy; Michael Claudon, Middlebury; Warren Coates, Federal Reserve; Richard Cooper, Yale; Alan Deardorff, Michigan; William Desvousges, Missouri (Rolla); F. Trenery Dolbear, Brandeis; Robert Dorfman, Harvard; James Duesenberry, Harvard; William Dugger, North Texas State University; Richard Easterlin, University of Pennsylvania; Jonathan Eaton, Princeton; David Fand, Wayne State: Judith Fernandez, University of California (Berkeley); David Gay, University of Arkansas; Howard A. Gilbert, South Dakota State University: Gerald Goldstein, Northwestern; Robert Gordon, Northwestern; Edward Gramlich, Michigan; Herschel Grossman, Brown; William Gunther, Alabama; Jerry Gustafson, Beloit; Judy Herman, Queens College; Alan Heston, University of Pennsylvania; Albert Hirschman, Harvard; Ronald Jones, Rochester; John Kareken, Minnesota; Ann Krueger, Minnesota; Robert Kuenne, Princeton; Simon Kuznets, Harvard; William Leonard, St. Joseph's; Richard Levin, Yale; Raymond Lubitz, Columbia and the Federal Reserve; John F. MacDonald, Illinois (Chicago Circle); Sherman Maisel, University of California (Berkeley); Leonard Martin, Cleveland State University; Thomas Mayer, University of California (Davis); William McEachern, University of Connecticut; Joseph McKinney, Baylor; Edward McNertney, Texas Christian University; Steven Morrison, University of California (Berkeley); John Murphy, Canisius; Arthur Okun, Brookings Institution; Lloyd Orr, Indiana; R. D. Peterson, Markenomics Associates (Fort Collins); E. Dwight Phaup, Union College; Roger Ransom, University of California (Berkeley); Charles Ratliff, Davidson College; Albert Rees, Princeton; Edward Renshaw, State University of New York (Albany); Anthony Romeo, University of Connecticut; Vernon Ruttan, Minnesota; Warren St. James, Nassau County Community College; Steven Sacks, University of Connecticut; Allen Sanderson, William and Mary; David Schulze, Florida; Edward Shapiro, University of Toledo; William Shugart, Arizona; Paul Sommers, Middlebury; Nicolas Spulber, Indiana; Charles Stone, Swarthmore; Richard Sutch, University of California (Berkeley); Frank Tansey, City University of New York; Michael Taussig, Rutgers; Thomas Tidrick, Clayton Junior College; Fred West**PREFACE**

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Philadelphia, 1982

E.M.

Outline of a One-Year Course with Macroeconomics Following Microeconomics.

- 1 Economic Problems and Analysis
- 2 Economic Models and Capitalism, American-Style
- 3 The Price System
- 4 The Economic Role of the Government
- 5 Government Expenditures, Taxation, and the Public Debt
- 6 The Business Firm: Organization, Motivation, and Technology
- 22 Market Demand and Price Elasticity
- 23 Getting Behind the Demand Curve: Consumer Behavior and Rational Choice
- 24 Optimal Input Decisions by Business Firms
- 25 Cost Analysis
- 26 Perfect Competition
- 27 Monopoly and Its Regulation
- 28 Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
- 29 Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy
- 30 Determinants of Wages
- 31 Interest, Rent, and Profits
- 32 Income Inequality, Poverty, and Discrimination
- 7 National Income and Product

- 8 Unemployment and Inflation
- 9 Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, and Business Fluctuations
- 10 The Determination of National Output
- 11 Multiplier Analysis and Changes in Output
- 12 Fiscal Policy and National Output
- 13 Business Fluctuations and Economic Forecasting
- 14 Money and the Economy
- 15 The Banking System and the Quantity of Money
- 16 Monetary Policy
- 17 Controversies over Stabilization Policy
- 18 Inflation and Anti-Inflationary Measures
- 19 Economic Growth
- 20 The Productivity Slowdown, U.S. Economic Growth and Technology Policy
- 21 Environmental and Energy Problems
- 33 International Trade
- 34 Exchange Rates and the Balance of Payments
- 35 The Less Developed Countries
- 36 The Communist Countries and Marxism

Outline of a One-Semester Course Emphasizing Microeconomics.

- 1 Economic Problems and Analysis
- 2 Economic Models and Capitalism, American-Style
- 3 The Price System
- 4 The Economic Role of the Government
- 6 The Business Firm: Organization, Motivation, and Technology
- 22 Market Demand and Price Elasticity
- 23 Getting Behind the Demand Curve: Consumer Behavior and Rational Choice
- 24 Optimal Input Decisions by Business Firms
- 25 Cost Analysis
- 26 Perfect Competition
- 27 Monopoly and Its Regulation
- 28 Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly

- 29 Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy
- 32 Income Inequality, Poverty, and Discrimination [optional]
- 7 National Income and Product
- 8 Unemployment and Inflation
- 9 Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, and Business Fluctuations
- 10 The Determination of National Output
- 11 Multiplier Analysis and Changes in Output
- 12 Fiscal Policy and National Output
- 14 Money and the Economy¹
- 15 The Banking System and the Quantity of Money
- 16 Monetary Policy

¹ Also, assign the beginning sections of Chapter 13.

Outline of a One-Semester Course Emphasizing Macroeconomics.

- 1 Economic Problems and Analysis
- 2 Economic Models and Capitalism, American-Style
- 3 The Price System
- 4 The Economic Role of the Government
- 5 Government Expenditures, Taxation, and the Public Debt
- 6 The Business Firm: Organization, Motivation, and Technology
- 7 National Income and Product
- 8 Unemployment and Inflation
- 9 Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, and Business Fluctuations
- 10 The Determination of National Output

- 11 Multiplier Analysis and Changes in Output
- 12 Fiscal Policy and National Output
- 13 Business Fluctuations and Economic Forecasting
- 14 Money and the Economy
- 15 The Banking System and the Quantity of Money
- 16 Monetary Policy
- 17 Controversies over Stabilization Policy
- 19 Economic Growth
- 20 The Productivity Slowdown, U.S. Economic Growth, and Technology Policy
- 33 International Trade
- 34 Exchange Rates and the Balance of Payments
- 35 The Less Developed Countries

Outline of a One-Semester Course Emphasizing Both Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.

- 1 Economic Problems and Analysis
- 2 Economic Models and Capitalism, American-Style
- 3 The Price System
- 4 The Economic Role of the Government
- 5 Government Expenditures, Taxation, and the Public Debt
- 6 The Business Firm: Organization, Motivation, and Technology
- 7 National Income and Product
- 8 Unemployment and Inflation
- 9 Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, and Business Fluctuations
- 10 The Determination of National Output
- 11 Multiplier Analysis and Changes in Output

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- 24 Optimal Input Decisions by Business Firms
- 25 Cost Analysis
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