

SECOND EDITION

Chisholm • McCarty

Principles of Economics

SECOND EDITION

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Scott, Foresman and Company Glenview, Illinois

Dallas, Texas Oakland, New Jersey Palo Alto, California Tucker, Georgia London, England

Photograph Acknowledgments

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Andrew Carnegie: Brown Brothers. John Kenneth Galbraith: Wide World.

George Stigler: Courtesy University of Chicago. Lillian Gilbreth: United Press International Frank Knight: Courtesy University of Chicago. Arthur Okun: Courtesy The Brookings Institute.

Kenneth Arrow: United Press International.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Chisholm, Roger K Principles of economics.

Also issued in two separate editions under titles: Principles of microeconomics and Principles of macroeconomics.

Includes index.

1. Economics. I. McCarty, Marilu Hurt, joint author. II. Title. HB171.5.C629 1981 330 80-26407 ISBN 0-673-15492-0

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Preface

This text is intended for the one-year principles of economics course. Therefore, it is written for the student encountering economics for the first time. The "usual" subject matter of the first course is treated in a complete and detailed manner. However, this book is not an encyclopedia of economic topics or a grab bag offering far more than any instructor can cover. Fewer topics are covered but these are the core topics and they are explored in depth. Stressing a balance between economic theory and real-world examples, chapters are often a couple of pages longer than those found in other texts.

We have paid particular attention to writing style and level. Chapters were reworked and polished many times to improve clarity and relevance. The terminology is that of the economist while the language is that of the economic journalist. Thus the writing style is like that found in Business Week, The New York Times, or The Wall Street Journal. The book speaks to today's students in a lively, colloquial fashion without emphasizing slang or adopting other overly cute devices. We hope that such language, besides facilitating learning, will convey the excitement of current economics.

An economics course should be, for most students, one of their most exciting and relevant courses. We believe this text will fulfill this goal.

The general organization of the text is fairly traditional. An introductory section of four chapters is followed by the macroeconomic chapters and then the microeconomic chapters.

However, any instructor who chooses can just as easily make the jump from the introductory section directly to the microeconomics. We wrote the micro and macro portions so that each could stand alone.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Much effort was directed toward juxtaposing real-world examples and problems with economic theory and ideas. Three basic issues inserts were employed: Extended Examples, Viewpoints, and Economic Thinkers.

The Extended Examples are just what the title says; each explores a significant topic from the real world in greater depth and shows how it is an example of economic theory in action. In the chapter on monopoly, there is an Extended Example on monopoly in shopping malls. This example describes how exclusionary agreements are sometimes used to ensure profit for initial tenants in shopping malls. In the chapter on Inflation, we have an Extended Example entitled "Inflation Fighting in Great Britain"; this example shows how the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher fought inflation but was severely challenged politically for the measures taken. Another Extended Example, found in the fiscal policy chapter, is called "Mr. Carter's \$50 Misunderstanding"; it discusses what happened to Carter's proposed \$50 rebate and demonstrates some shortcomings of fiscal policy in the real world.

The **Viewpoints** deal with economic controversies and with many of the unsolved economic problems of our times. Quite literally, the Viewpoints are taken from the headlines of newspapers and magazines. The Viewpoints enable students to apply the theory they have just learned. In fact, many of the Viewpoints challenge students to defend or disagree with the argument. The chapter on the government's role in the economy has a Viewpoint on the value-added tax; the issue of whether VAT is a better system than ours is discussed, with arguments for and against. In the chapter on Unemployment we include two opposing Viewpoints, one called "Unemployment Statistics Overestimate the Problem" and the other "Unemployment Statistics Underestimate the Problem."

Our third issues insert is the Economic Thinkers, biographies of great economists. Actually, biographical data are limited to one or two paragraphs. Most of the biography deals with the important economic ideas contributed by that thinker. Some of our Economic Thinkers are Galbraith, Marx, Veblen, Marshall, Lawrence Klein, Irving Fisher, Kenneth Arrow, Joan Robinson—the list goes on and on.

The average length of these issues inserts is two text columns, or one full page. Thus, these issues are not intended as diversions; they provide some real "meat" for students.

Other useful pedagogical tools are included. Each chapter starts with learning objectives. At the end of each chapter is a summary, a key words and phrases list, and questions for review. The key words and phrases are actually glossaries of all new terms in that chapter. In the interests of "pedagogical repetition," some terms appear in more than one glossary.

The Instructor's Manual provides suggestions for readings from popular magazines for both the students and teacher.

MACROECONOMIC TOPICS OF NOTE

Macroeconomic thinking has been changing rapidly in recent years. So rapid has the change been that many new ideas are not yet integrated into the main body of economic thought. Clearly, a textbook is not the place to achieve integration. However, we have presented the new ideas in a way that shows their origin and their place in the body of economic knowledge. We do not set one school of thought against another, though the instructor may wish to do so. We

do not merely add new ideas, as economic afterthoughts. We do familiarize students with various macroeconomic ideas and prepare them to follow, if not enter, the on-going debates.

Many of the topics which students and instructors alike found useful in the first edition have been retained. For example, national income accounting (Chapter 5) is still treated with enthusiasm and clarity, not as something to be endured until we can get on to other matters. We hope to motivate students by stressing, very early, the problems of the macroeconomy: Economic instability, uncertainty, inflation, and unemployment are covered in Chapter 6.

The real sector of the economy is developed (Chapters 7–9) to show how the production of goods and services is ultimately what economics is all about. How the economy reaches the equilibrium level of output and what we may do to change that equilibrium are clearly described. We had already emphasized aggregate supply in the first edition; this topic is retained and expanded in this edition. For example, the components of the aggregate supply curve are discussed.

The chapter on nonbank financial intermediaries was well received by both students and instructors in the first edition. The chapter (Chapter 12) has been expanded in this edition to include discussions of the money market funds and the operation of the futures market.

The treatment of monetary policy (Chapters 13–14) continues to embrace both the Keynesian and the monetarist perspective. This is possible because the demand for money is built upon both sets of assumptions. The supply of money is described in the traditional chapters on money and the commercial banking system.

The important topics of inflation and unemployment are given prominent attention in this edition, as in the first. To further emphasize such important topics, each is treated in a separate chapter (Chapters 15 and 16). Economic growth, both in industrialized and developing nations, is shown to be an important and difficult problem. The growing energy crisis is examined for its effect on economic growth and development.

Many innovations have come about with this new edition. As has been mentioned, aggregate supply, along with the underlying labor market, is given expanded treatment. Aggregate supply is then used in models of the price level and inflation. Considerations of aggregate supply also allow introduction of current concerns about falling productivity and the "supply side" school of macroeconomics. The fiscal policy suggestions of Professor Laffer are also considered.

Additional innovations are found in the monetary chapters. The new definitions of the money supply as well as the changes brought about by the Banking Law of 1980 are discussed. Recent monetary policy actions are reviewed. The rational expectations arguments are presented, as is a discussion of the activist-nonactivist debate about the role of policy in macroeconomic affairs.

The structural problems leading to inflation have been given greater weight in the now separate chapter on inflation. With the inflation models in hand, students are then shown that unemployment remains a serious issue, especially in light of the 1980 recession. Much greater use is then made of both the short-run and the long-run Phillips curve in the analysis of unemployment and inflation.

The growth theory chapter stresses neoclassical models and the effects of high energy costs and government borrowing. The growth and development chapter utilizes several case studies and offers a good treatment of the effects of cultural factors on economic growth.

The three chapters on international economics stress basic theory and its application to current problems and policies. The trade chapters discuss changing terms of trade, the North-South dilemma, pressures for protection, responses to competition, and exporting technology. The finance chapter covers lending and debt, interest rate wars, exporting monetary policy, floating exchange rate problems, and problems with the dollar.

MICROECONOMIC TOPICS OF NOTE

The chapters on consumer demand (Chapters 22–24) carefully develop fundamental concepts necessary for complete understanding of a wide range of economic principles. Marginal relationships, elasticity, and substitution and income effects receive extended verbal, mathematical, and graphical treatment. These and the following chapter on supply theory amplify fundamental concepts through application to current economic issues: productivity and government policies, expectations and incentives, taxes and subsidies.

Separate explorations of short- and long-

run production theory (Chapters 25–26) give particular emphasis to the character and function of profit in making decisions. Important issues include corporate accountability, corporate democracy, efficient scale, innovation and adjustment to change, external economies and diseconomies, and price fluctuations in agriculture (the cobweb theorem).

Imperfect competition (Chapters 27–29) is critically examined as to its causes and consequences, with emphasis on considerations of equity and efficiency. The question of market power and regulation is explored in depth, along with the issues of price discrimination and social externalities. The treatment of theory is rigorous and the language is precise.

Chapters on resource employment and income distribution (Chapters 30–33) have been expanded and reorganized to focus separately on marginal productivity theory, work and labor resources, land and rent, capital employment and profits, and the problem of poverty. Modern production theory is integrated with the historical evolution of philosophies of and policies toward resource markets. Some significant issues have been added, including worker fringe benefits, labor-management cooperation to increase productivity, human capital investment, the diminishing supply of farmland, and the effects of discrimination in education.

The last part of the text (Chapters 34-36) takes an entirely new look at economic theory in a socio-political context. Market failure and public choice are discussed at some length. The actual results of market behavior are shown to differ significantly from the efficient and equitable results reached in theory. Proposed remedies from both ends of the political spectrum are examined in detail. Theory and policy considerations are then discussed fully in specific sectors of market failure: the health-care industry, energy, and environmental health and safety. The last chapter covers alternative economic systems, emphasizing socialist thought, the various roles of planning, and the ways in which all economic systems can be compared.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Naturally, such a major undertaking as writing a basic economics text leaves the authors in debt to many people. First there is the intellectual debt to many economists and other mentors, some of whom the authors have never met.

Then there are the many students whose comments and complaints shape the authors' teaching of the course.

We would particularly like to thank the following professors who offered constructive

comments on the manuscript:

Abraham Bertisch, Nassau C.C.
Donna Bialik, Indiana University—
Purdue University (Ft. Wayne)
Donald Coffin, Indiana University—
Purdue University (Indianapolis)
Loy Despain, Mesa Community College
Steven Erickson, Purdue University
Margaret Greenbaum, Northwestern
University
James Johannes, Michigan State
University

Robert Kenney, Miami-Dade C.C. Margaret Moore, Franklin University Athanasius Njoku, Benedict College Pierce Nolan, El Paso C.C. Rheyburn Nolan, Tyler Junior College Sam Parigi, Lamar University Stephen Renas, Wright State University Dorothy Sanford, College of Notre Dame Basil Zimmer, Central Michigan University

Author Chisholm would like to give special thanks to his wife, Jean, and his three daughters, Margaret, Janet, and Elizabeth, who have now endured the preparation of two editions of this book.

Roger K. Chisholm Marilu H. McCarty

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