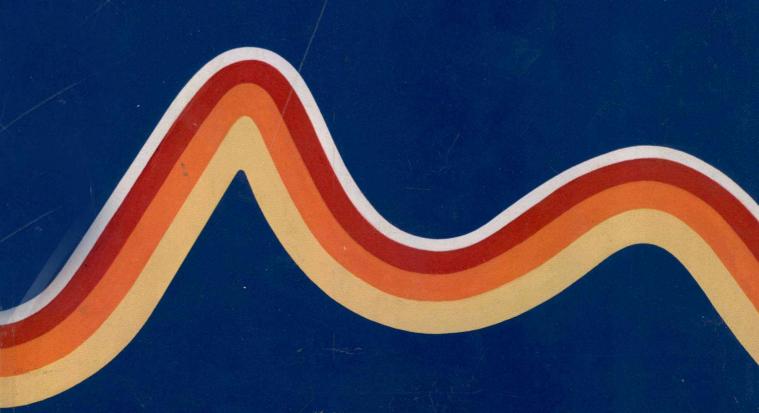
Edwin Mansfield ECONOMICS FIFTH EDITION



Economics

PRINCIPLES, PROBLEMS, DECISIONS

EDWIN MANSFIELD

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

FIFTH EDITION



(Photograph credits and acknowledgments appear on page A50.)

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

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Preface

Any principles text must keep current with the state of economic knowledge, especially as it applies to the economic issues of the day. The fifth edition of *Economics: Principles, Problems, Decisions* does this, in ways I outline below. But the most fundamental change in this edition is not one of organization or style: it involves a new emphasis which, I believe, will lead to far greater understanding and retention of the core material of the introductory course.

To students, perhaps the biggest defect in most textbooks is their failure to sift through the many details, and present a reasonably small number of basic propositions that should be given central attention. Thus students find it difficult to separate the essential and basic from the less important, and a few years after graduation their recollection of economics is often a smudge.

Almost as formidable a barrier to learning is the tendency of textbooks to treat each topic as a separate entity, with the connections among them either unstated or mentioned in passing. Because the topics are not brought together, the student is like a chef who has the ingredients spread on the counter but lacks the recipe for blending them.

The fifth edition attempts to remedy the twin problems of excessive detail and missing linkages:

Basic Ideas. To provide direction finders through the text, the present edition focuses on 70 Basic Ideas, two highlighted per chapter, which students are encouraged to think through carefully. One can reasonably expect these 70 Basic Ideas to stick with students. If so, their time will have been well spent, because these ideas really constitute the heart of elementary economics, stripped of frills and details. Based on classroom experience, this simple pedagogical aid helps students to see (and remember) the forest, as distinct from a hodgepodge of trees. (Besides presenting each of these 70 Basic Ideas in the relevant chapters in the text, a summary of them is printed in the front and back inside covers of the book, where students can readily refer to them.)

Cross-Chapter Cases. To make connections clear—connections not only

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between aspects of theory but also between theory and the uses to which it is put—this edition introduces eight Cross-Chapter Cases. Appearing near the end of each part (other than the introduction), each takes up a major issue cutting across material contained in various chapters of the part. Among the issues developed in detail are the pros and cons of America's adopting an industrial policy, the accuracy of the economic forecasts of 1984, an account of a meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, how robots affect firms' cost curves, the antitrust case involving Berkey Photo and Eastman Kodak, the effects of the minimum wage on teenage unemployment, and the debt problems of Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. These Cross-Chapter Cases are not mere appendages. They require students to draw on a number of tools and techniques to which they have just been exposed in the entire part.

Other New Material. While the 70 Basic Ideas and the Cross-Chapter Cases are the principal innovations in the Fifth Edition, much else has been changed. New inserts, for example, come in two varieties: some on new developments in economics (such as the role of time in economics, market signaling, contestable markets, and laboratory experimentation) while others deal with mistakes and fallacies (such as the discussion of sunk costs in Chapter 23). In addition, new materials have been introduced on such aspects of the current policy scene as tax reform, the strong dollar, the balance of trade deficit, the federal budget deficit, the B-1 bomber, and protectionism. Also, the IBM Corporation is now used to explain the operation of a giant corporation, significantly one with a strong entrepreneurial bent, in Chapter 6. Additional space is also devoted to relatively new theoretical developments such as the rational expectations hypothesis.

Glossary of Terms. Another new feature of the Fifth Edition is a Glossary of Terms, which is placed at the end of the book. I am grateful to Nariman Behravish, who supervised much of the work underlying this glossary, for permission to include it here. This new section should make it easier for students to refresh their memories concerning the definition of economic terms.

Emphasis on Doing Economics. 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. In the previous edition, I invited students to do economics in order to understand it better. Scores of examples were provided, each describing a real (or realistic) situation and then calling on the student to work through the solution. Within each chapter there were two problem sets, both designated "Test Yourself." that enabled students to check their comprehension of what they had just read. The reaction of instructors and students was very favorable, and the emphasis on doing economics is maintained in this fifth edition. One new feature is that the answers for the odd-numbered Test Yourself questions are now provided at the end of the book. Many students and instructors urged me to include them in this way.

Organizational Changes. Although many new features have been included in the present edition, the book is shorter than the previous edition, due to a tough (even ruthless) editing process. A very determined effort has been made to drop extraneous material and to keep the number of words to a minimum. This has led to a reduction in the number of chapters and to shortening in such areas as consumer decision making and how banks

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create money. This edition, while leaner than its predecessor, manages, I believe, to be clearer, both theoretically and empirically.

Updating. All of the empirical and policy-oriented chapters 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, reserve requirements, Social Security, and a variety of other topics have brought them into line with current developments.

Since instructors differ considerably in their choice and ordering of topics, the fifth edition, like its predecessors, 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. xxi.) As an alternative to reversing the chapter sequence in the one-volume edition, some instructors may want to consider the two-volume paperbound version, *Principles of Microeconomics* and *Principles of Macroeconomics*, fifth editions.

This book can also be adapted for use in one-semester courses. Pages xxi-xxii 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: Reading, 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, fifth 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 situations. In practically every chapter of the study guide, a new case study has been added. Both students and instructors have reported that such cases are important in motivating students and illuminating economic theory.

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); Ar-

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thur 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 Southern California; 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; Judith Herman, Queens College; Alan Heston, University of Pennsylvania; Albert Hirschman, Harvard; Ronald Jones, Rochester; John Kareken, Minnesota; Ann Krueger, World Bank; 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 Westfield, Vanderbilt; Simon Whitney, Iona College; William Whitney, University of Pennsylvania; and Harold Williams. Kent State University.

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Philadelphia, 1985.

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
- 21 Market Demand and Price Elasticity
- 22 Getting Behind the Demand Curve: Consumer Behavior
- 23 Optimal Input Decisions by Business Firms
- 24 Cost Analysis
- 25 Perfect Competition
- 26 Monopoly and Its Regulation
- 27 Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
- 28 Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy
- 29 Determinants of Wages
- 30 Interest, Rent, and Profits
- 31 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 Environmental and Energy Problems
- 32 International Trade
- 33 Exchange Rates and the Balance of Payments
- 34 The Less Developed Countries
- 35 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
- 21 Market Demand and Price Elasticity
- 22 Getting Behind the Demand Curve: Consumer Behavior
- 23 Optimal Input Decisions by Business Firms
- 24 Cost Analysis
- 25 Perfect Competition
- 26 Monopoly and Its Regulation
- 27 Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly

- 28 Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy
- 31 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

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
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- 16 Monetary Policy
- 17 Controversies over Stabilization Policy
- 19 Economic Growth
- 32 International Trade
- 33 Exchange Rates and the Balance of Payments
- 34 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
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PART ONE

Introduction to Economics

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