

#### **SECOND EDITION**

# BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

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### **PREFACE**

Business in today's world is constantly changing and becoming more complex. U.S. businesses are no longer insulated from international competition, and the business environment is no longer dominated by large-scale manufacturing. Business ethics and social responsibility are no longer just topics for an end-of-chapter discussion question. Global competition, information technology, quality and productivity, social responsibility, and the role of services and small businesses are the major elements in business today.

The next decade will be a period of extraordinary global competition, ecological focus, ethical considerations, and technological change. Only individuals and businesses that are able to adapt and grow will survive. BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD presents a contemporary reflection of today's business world. Global markets, the changing business environment, competitiveness, and the importance of small business are covered at the beginning so that students will see how these concepts affect all other business functions.

Today's Introduction to Business students come from varied backgrounds and are involved in varied programs of study. Some are business administration majors, but many are enrolled in career programs. BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD is a student-oriented text that is attractive, uncluttered, and logically organized. It will not only assist the student in learning introductory business concepts but also make the learning process interesting and enjoyable.

The primary focus of BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD is to help prepare the student to compete in today's business world. The goal is for the student to know, understand, and use the concepts presented in the text. Accompanying the text is the student Study Guide that is the most direct student-oriented, informative and rewarding guide available. The student activities require much more than simple memorization of the text. Through the activities, the student will gain a broader understanding of the concepts presented in the text and will apply this knowledge in real-life situations.

- At the knowledge level, crossword puzzles add interest to learning key terms and definitions.
- A series of applied multiple-choice questions helps the student to understand the basic concepts presented in the text chapter.
- The student applies the concepts discussed in the text chapter in one or more decision-making activities.
- Lastly, for each text chapter, the issue of written communication is addressed.
  In answering the questions in the final application, the student prepares a
  short written answer. In most cases, the answer will be based on an interview
  with a businessperson concerning the real-world application of the concepts
  presented in the chapter.

BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD is based on carefully documented studies on educational methods and learning theories. Each chapter begins with three useful sections:

- "Objectives" outlines the competencies that the student will acquire upon completion of the chapter.
- "Business Terms" highlights the business vocabulary introduced in the chapter.
- "What's Your Opinion?" presents a thought-provoking issue related to the topic of the chapter. After finishing the chapter, the student will be able to formulate his or her own opinion on the issue and compare that opinion with the authors'.

The text itself is written at a level attuned to today's student. Definitions and objectives in the margin, numerous examples, and lists aid the learning process. Descriptive figures and photographs stimulate interest and provide a graphic illustration of the textual materials presented. Each text chapter also includes several "Business Line" sections that illustrate how concepts discussed in the chapter relate to actual occurrences in today's business world.

The end-of-chapter materials continue the student-oriented framework of the text:

- An "Action Case" with questions can be used to synthesize the concepts contained in the chapter. Answers to the case questions are included in the instructor's manual.
- The "Summary" is presented in the form of answers to the learning objectives at the beginning of the chapter.
- "Discussion Questions" ask for more than simple recitation of the chapter content; many will stimulate active class discussion.
- Lastly "Our Opinion" gives the authors' thoughts concerning the "What's Your Opinion?" question.

Each of the six parts of the text opens with a brief narrative that provides information about the background and accomplishments of an interesting businessperson who is related to the topic of that part. At the end of each part, "Careers for You" describes employment opportunities in the areas discussed

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within that part of the text. This section also includes a "Job Line" that presents the major requirements, responsibilities, median salary, and employment potential for specific positions. A relevant "Video Case" is located at the end of the last chapter of each part.

A comprehensive glossary at the end of the text again defines all of the business terms. The glossary has been carefully prepared to meet the student's need for completeness and clarity. Lastly, BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD contains a detailed index, which will aid the student in locating business terms and concepts.

#### FRAMEWORK OF THE BOOK

This book is a blend of topics that will provide the student with a contemporary reflection of today's business world. The text is divided into six parts:

- Part One, "Overview of Business," contains four chapters that explain concepts that permeate each of the basic business functions. Chapter 1, "Economic Foundations of Business," provides the historical and economic foundations of our capitalistic system. Chapter 2, "Global Business," describes the nature of international trade and why it is so critical to today's successful businesses. Chapter 3, "Competitiveness Through Quality and Productivity," discusses standards of quality and productivity and business's concern about obtaining them. Chapter 4, "Small Business and Franchising," conveys the importance of small business in the U.S. economy and the phenomenal growth of franchising.
- Part Two, "Social and Legal Environments," contains three chapters that examine business's social responsibilities and legal constraints. Chapter 5, "Business Ethics and Social Responsibility," describes how society's values and the external environment influence the manager's job. Chapter 6, "Business Regulation and Taxes," is an introduction to the laws and regulations used to promote competition and the principles of taxation. Chapter 7, "Legal Forms of Business Ownership," examines the advantages and disadvantages of proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, and cooperatives.
- Part Three, "Management and Human Resources," contains five chapters that discuss management responsibilities involving workers. Chapter 8, "The Manager's Job," explains managerial roles, levels, skills, and functions. Chapter 9, "Building the Organization," describes organization structure and culture. Chapter 10, "Operations Management," discusses the basic considerations and decisions involving the production of goods and services. Chapter 11, "Human Resources Management," explains the methods by which people are brought into the organization, trained, evaluated, and compensated. Chapter 12, "Labor-Management Relations," considers the goals of organized labor and the role of labor unions.
- Part Four, "Marketing Management," illustrates the critical role of marketing in today's business world through four chapters. Chapter 13, "Marketing Management," explains the concept of marketing and identifies the marketing functions. The chapter also discusses consumer motivations and marketing research. Chapter 14, "Products and Their Distribution," covers many topics concerning the characteristics and distribution of consumer goods and industrial goods. Chapter 15, "Promotional Strategies," considers the four parts of a promotional mix—personal selling, advertising, publicity, and sales promotion. Chapter 16, "Pricing Strategies," discusses pricing objectives and policies and explains the use of consumer and producer price indexes.

- Part Five, "Information Systems," is composed of two chapters that examine
  the use of information and data in making business decisions. Chapter 17,
  "Management Information Systems and Computers," describes the efforts of
  businesses to integrate information functions and technologies. Chapter 18,
  "Financial Information and Accounting," provides a concise description of
  the accounting process, the income statement and balance sheet, and uses of
  financial information.
- Part Six, "Financial Management," contains four chapters that cover diverse topics concerning financial matters. Chapter 19, "Financial Strategies," explains the uses for and sources of short- and long-term financing. Chapter 20, "Security and Commodity Exchanges," explains the role of security and futures exchanges for both businesses and individuals. Chapter 21, "Money and Banking," discusses the role of money, the Federal Reserve System, and banking regulation in the United States. The chapter also covers international monetary operations. Chapter 22, "Risk Management and Insurance," discusses risk and the role of insurance for both businesses and individuals.

#### SUPPLEMENTS

BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD is accompanied by comprehensive instructional support materials.

 Instructor's Resource Manual. The instructor's manual provides resources to increase the teaching and learning value of BUSINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD. All of the written support materials for classroom activities are included in this single volume personally prepared by both authors.

For each text chapter, the manual provides a chapter transition and preview, a listing of the learning objectives, and suggestions for videos and films. A detailed lecture outline correlates lecture materials with transparencies, discussion questions, and commentaries that expand the lecture beyond the textbook. Also included is the chapter summary prepared as answers to the learning objectives and answers to the action case questions and the end-of-chapter discussion questions. Lastly, for each text chapter, there is an exercise that can be easily photocopied for use in the classroom or as homework. Answers for this exercise are also provided. Transparency masters are provided for many tables and figures. At the end of each of the six parts are the answers to the video case questions.

The instructor's manual also includes the operational guide and cases that accompany the South-Western *Decision Assistant* software. Each case places the student in a decision-making role. Solutions to the cases are provided.

- *Study Guide.* The text authors have prepared an exciting and informative study guide containing a variety of materials that readily leads students to the proper learning outcomes.
- Test Bank. The test bank was prepared by the text authors to assure accuracy and consistency. It includes 120 questions (40 true/false and 80 multiple choice), which are organized by major chapter headings for each text chapter. The text page reference is included with the answer for each question. Each question is identified by its degree of difficulty for students: "E" is easy, "M" is moderate, and "D" is difficult.
- Computerized Test Bank. In addition to the printed version, the test bank is available in a computerized format, MicroSWAT II, for use with IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers. MicroSWAT II allows the instructor to edit existing questions, create new questions, and print multiple versions of tests.

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• Transparencies. The transparency package includes 50 full-color acetates and over 100 transparency masters. Although some of the most useful figures from the text are included, many of the acetates supplement the material covered in the text. The acetates and transparency masters are listed in the lecture notes in the instructor's manual.

Videos. Six videos which accompany the video cases are part of the instructional package. South-Western Publishing College Division also maintains a video lending library. Contact your South-Western representative for more information.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# VERVIEW e rusiness

# PART 1

Many of today's highly successful business people were youngsters during the Great Depression. They learned that in spite of the very difficult economy, there was a way to earn a living by going into business for oneself. Some of these entrepreneurs had a great deal in common with each other. Two in particular who did were Sam Walton and H. Ross Perot. Both were from small midwestern towns, delivered newspapers as youngsters, became Eagle Scouts in the Boy Scouts, and had fathers who owned their own businesses. Both had an undying faith that if you worked hard and gave the customers what they wanted, you could be successful in business. As you

will see in Chapter 1, Sam Walton used these concepts to create the largest retailing company in the world, Wal-Mart, and went on to become one of the

richest men in the world.

H. Ross Perot, until recently, was not as familiar to the American public as Sam Walton was. Most of us have not shopped with the company he created, Electronic Data Systems Corporation (EDS). He created EDS on his thirty-second birthday in 1962 with \$1,000 he and his wife, Margot, had saved from her teaching salary. Prior to this, Ross had worked for IBM, where he was a very successful salesman. In his fifth year with IBM he sold his year's quota in the first three weeks of January. He felt that selling computers at this time was like selling umbrellas on a rainy day-every-

body wanted one—and IBM had the market locked up. In Perot's eyes, IBM sold the hardware and gave the buyer the software. The problem was that frequently the software wasn't what the buyer needed. Then the buyer had to spend a lot of money to tailor IBM's software to his or her own needs. Perot's idea was to sell computer services rather than the hardware. The IBM hierarchy wasn't interested in his idea. As many other entrepreneurs have had to do, Perot guit his job to start a business that would take advantage of his idea. He rented unused computer time from computer owners. With the help of two salesmen and a programmer, he sold computer services to other firms. His first customers were insurance companies who needed their medical insurance claims processed.

This experience in processing medical insurance claims later proved to be fortunate. In 1965 Congress legislated Medicare and Medicaid, large government health-care programs. Private sector firms such as Blue Cross were swamped with claims. EDS soon became the prime Medicare and Medicaid subcontractor in Texas, California, and a number of other states. EDS doubled its business annually in the 1960s.

In 1968 Perot sold to the public some of the stock in EDS. His net worth at the end of the day on which the stock was sold was \$200 million. Within two years his net worth exceeded a billion dollars.

The general public first became aware of Perot in December 1969 when he collected 26 tons of supplies that he flew to Vietnam to give to U.S. POWs. He wasn't successful in this effort because the North Vietnamese would not let him land his plane. However, Perot felt that there were very positive results in terms of better treatment for the POWs in

Vietnam after his attempt.

Fifteen years later, the sale of EDS to General Motors (GM) and the ensuing conflict with GM's chief executive officer, Roger Smith, again brought Perot before the public. In 1984 GM bought EDS for \$2.5 billion with the intention of tying together its fragmented data processing. Perot received \$1 billion in cash, a position on the GM Board of Directors, and 11.3 million shares of GM stock tied to the performance of EDS.

Smith at first welcomed Perot's public chastising of the ponderous GM bureaucracy. However, statements such as "Revitalizing GM is like teaching an elephant to tap dance" soon became tiresome. In late 1986 Roger Smith decided

GM's side. He bought back Perot's GM stock for over \$700

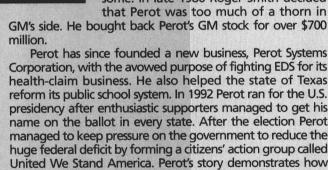
Perot has since founded a new business, Perot Systems Corporation, with the avowed purpose of fighting EDS for its health-claim business. He also helped the state of Texas reform its public school system. In 1992 Perot ran for the U.S. presidency after enthusiastic supporters managed to get his name on the ballot in every state. After the election Perot managed to keep pressure on the government to reduce the huge federal deficit by forming a citizens' action group called United We Stand America. Perot's story demonstrates how far a person with a good idea and lots of energy can go.

Sources: N. R. Kleinfield, "Pesky Entrepreneur: Henry Ross Perot,"

The New York Times, 2 December 1986: 29, 33; "The Wild Card,"

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Biography 1971: 322-324.



# ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF BUSINESS

1

#### **OBJECTIVES**

1

Explain how profit is crucial to our capitalist economic system.

2

Discuss the differences among capitalism, socialism, and communism.

3

Identify and explain the importance of the five major eras for business in this country.

4

Explain the roles of consumers, producers, and governments in our capitalistic system.

5

Distinguish between personal income and business income.

6

Distinguish among pure competition, monopolistic competition, oligopoly, and monopoly.

7

Identify the critical issues facing our economy.

#### **BUSINESS TERMS**

budget deficit business business cycle business income capitalism communism cost-push inflation cyclical unemployment demand-pull inflation democracy disposable income economic system entrepreneurs frictional unemployment gross domestic product (GDP) gross national product (GNP) inflation

laissez-faire

market economy market price mixed economy monopolistic competition monopoly national debt oligopoly personal income privatization producers productivity profit pure competition seasonal unemployment services socialism structural unemployment transfer payments unemployment