

Acknowledgments for the First Edition ---

THIS BOOK appears at the time and in the form that it does because of the professional and personal qualities of Sanford Thatcher, formerly assistant director of Princeton University Press. Sandy suggested the present order of the topics, which I believe makes the book much better than it was before even if it asks more of the reader; he also advised wisely about where and how to cut a draft which was too long to be publishable or readable. He made sure that the book promptly got at least a fair shake in the process of editorial evaluation. And it was my faith in his word, based on the trust he built between us during the publication of my previous book, that gave me the heart to revise the long early draft even without any commitment from him, and while I had reason to doubt that anyone else would want to publish this controversial material.

The book has greatly benefited from, and I have delighted in, the help of two skilled copy editors. Richard Palmer policed the documentation and the syntax, and in the process improved the prose as much as I would let him; he also gave me the benefit of many amusing asides, some of which I appropriated. William Hively worked the book (and me) over sentence by sentence. He straightened, tightened, and sharpened the language, and detected troublesome errors in writing; he also contributed a good many helpful thoughts from his large stock of general knowledge. And with care and diligence he kept the book on track and away from dangerous derailings while in press. In a better job market for academics, these two talented men would be working on their own writings rather than my book; as the beneficiary, however, I can't help feeling grateful for this circumstance, and for the opportunity of getting to know them in the process.

Michael Aronson of Harvard University Press and Colin Day of Cambridge University Press helped me with their sound editorial judgments about the overall design of the book. Harold Barnett, Allen Chase, and Thomas Mayer generously read through most of the text and gave me copious, useful notes; where I did not take their advice, I hope they will forgive me. The anonymous referees also improved the revision. Stanley Trollip helped me choose the book's title. And James L. Smith read and made important corrections in the energy chapters. Alvin Weinberg also was kind enough to read several chapters and to comment upon them.

Douglas Love assisted in much of the data collection and computer work; he served intelligently and faithfully. James Bier created the excellent figures. And typists Phyllis Stout and Susan Walker contributed high skill and diligence to the making of the book.

The roots of this work go back to William Petty, Adam Smith, and Friedrich Engels; to Jules Verne and H. G. Wells; and to others who have, in their forecasts for the economy and society, given full weight to man's imagination and creative powers of solving the problems of people and resources. But it was in the more recent work of Simon Kuznets, Harold J. Barnett together with Chandler Morse, A. V. Chayanov, and Ester Boserup that I found this idea and was inspired by it.

My wife Rita strengthened me by agreeing with my point of view, just as my children David, Judith, and Daniel strengthened me by saying that my arguments about the topics of this book make sense, despite their not knowing the details of the arguments and in the face of having been told exactly the opposite by the newspapers and television.

Lastly, though I am not accustomed to dealing with organizations as if they have personalities or characters, I am happy to recognize that Princeton University Press has treated this book—and me—the way every author dreams of being treated but seldom is. The experience of having a book published usually feels to me like walking at snail's pace through a mine field; if I get through with most vital organs, I can count on losing at least a few joints of major appendages, plus a big bunch of nerve endings, to what appear to be senseless, arbitrary blasts. Instead, during the publication of this book I have felt like a member of a partnership in which all partners work together enthusiastically toward a common goal, this has been a great joy, indeed.

I am grateful for all your help.

*Urbana, Illinois
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