

**INSTITUTES OF ECONOMICS; A  
SUCCINCT TEXTBOOK OF  
POLITICAL ECONOMY FOR THE  
USE OF CLASSES IN COLLEGES,  
HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649184699

Institutes of economics; a succinct textbook of political economy for the use of classes in colleges, high schools and academies by Elisha Benjamin Andrews

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**ELISHA BENJAMIN ANDREWS**

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# INSTITUTES OF ECONOMICS

*A SUCCINCT TEXT-BOOK OF POLITICAL ECONOMY  
FOR THE USE OF CLASSES IN COLLEGES  
HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES*

BY

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BOSTON  
SILVER, BURDETT & COMPANY

1897

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By E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS

19247

TYPOGRAPHY BY J. S. CUSHING & Co., BOSTON

PRINTED BY BEYER & SMITH, BOSTON

TO

HOF-RATH DR. JOH. A. R. VON HELFERICH

*Professor of Economics and Finance in the  
University of Munich*

By his former pupil

THE AUTHOR

ἀρά γε ἡ οἰκονομία ἐπιστήμης τινὸς ὀνομά ἐστιν ὡσπερ ἡ ἰατρικὴ  
καὶ ἡ χαλκευτικὴ καὶ ἡ τεκτονικὴ; . . . ἢ καὶ ὡσπερ τούτων τῶν  
τεχνῶν ἔχομεν ἂν εἰπεῖν ὅτι ἔργον ἐκάστης οὕτω καὶ τῆς οἰκονομίας  
δυναίμεθ' ἂν εἰπεῖν ὅτι ἔργον αὐτῆς ἐστί; δοκεῖ γοῦν.

ΧΡΗΣΟΦΟΣ, *Οἰκονομικός*, I, 1, 2.



## PREFACE

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Two main motives have prompted the composition of this book, one concerning method, the other, doctrine. The most excellent manuals of Political Economy now in use seem to the author to involve two serious faults of method. One is that they nearly everywhere say too much, totally ignoring the instructor, and on most points leaving the pupil himself little thinking to do even when they stop short of positively confusing his mind in its efforts to construe the thought in its own way. The other is that they do not mark for the eye, in differences of type, any distinction between substantive and subsidiary material, their pages exhibiting principle and illustration, statement and amplification, clothed in equal dignity of form. It is believed both on psychological grounds and from much experience, that the best printed presentation of a subject for class-room purposes is the briefest which clearness will allow, leaving indispensable amplifications and illustrations to notes, and all fuller exposition to the teacher's wit or the student's search. This is the aim of the following pages. That the pupil, so soon as master of the essential idea, may be able to at once enlarge and tighten his grasp upon it through reading, most of the paragraphs are introduced by references to the best accessible authorities, more recondite works being at the same time named for the behoof of teachers. On collateral subjects of special importance the ablest convenient discussions are listed in notes. The analysis and arrangement of topics are in many particulars new, and it is hoped that some of the changes introduced will prove welcome. As the result of careful reflection, a prominence which may at first seem grotesque has been given to the paragraph-captions. Students will find this not merely a mnemonic convenience for the purposes of review and examination, but a most efficient objective help in grasp-

ing the science. Touching the doctrine of this new class-book there is less to say. As Economics is now in transition many deprecate all effort at present to summarize it afresh. This logic, strictly taken, presupposes the advent, sooner or later, of a fixedness in the science which we fervently hope will never arise, since it could not but imply stagnation in economic thought. Meantime our best texts, with all that is true, profound, and well said in them, blend not a few propositions that what may be called the general judgment of progressive economists pronounces inadequate, misleading, or erroneous. Such are especially numerous in regard to the nature of Wealth, the scope of Economics, and in the weighty rubrics of Value, Money, Interest, Wages, and Profits. Nearly all our treatises, besides, betray from beginning to end a deceptive air, a wry *ensemble*, springing from writers' too sharp sundering of Economics from general Sociology. Whether the volume now offered to the public contains in these respects aught of true amendment, those who read and use it must judge. They will at any rate find in it, not always adopted but at least sympathetically mentioned so far as these are sufficiently non-technical to be named in a work of this character, the latest views which can with any propriety pretend to be settled. The book has been written during the odd moments of a very busy year, and it will be a wonder if the critic's keen glance shall not unearth in it some inconsistencies and errors of detail. The author will be happy to be notified of any such. He is indebted to several gentlemen for their kind pains in looking over the proof sheets as they have appeared. In this, Professor J. W. Moncrief, Ph.D., of Franklin College, has rendered a peculiarly grateful service.

E. BENJ. ANDREWS.

July 3, 1889.

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