

Economics and Its Enemies

Two Centuries of Anti-Economics

William Oliver Coleman

University of Tasmania

palgrave
macmillan

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>x</i>
-------------------------	----------

Parti

1 The Damnation of Economics	3
1.1 The phenomenon of anti-economics	3
1.2 The identity of the accuser	7
1.3 The identity of the accused	8
1.4 'A fine bill of indictment': an inventory of the charges against economics	11
1.5 An overview of the analysis	17

Part II

2 The 'Wretched Procurers of Sedition'	23
2.1 Enlightenment dissenters	23
2.2 Counter-revolutionary convictions	30
2.3 The 'consuming pestilence to the empire'	37
2.4 Twentieth-century revivals	45
2.5 Right and Left: an analysis	47
3 The 'Apostles of the Rich' , i	51
3.1 The Judas of the Revolution	52
3.2 The market and the social order	54
3.3 Hired prize-fighters	56
4 The Dream of Nationhood	65
4.1 The 'fraction of the human race'	66
4.2 The national economists	68
4.3 Twentieth-century reformulations	80
4.4 Pseudo-science and pseudo-history	85
4.5 Does anti-economics have a nationality?	87
5 The Totalitarian State and the 'Economist-Scoundrels'	90
5.1 Stalinism	91
5.2 Nazism	99

Part III

6 'The General Contagion of its Mechanic Philosophy'	107
6.1 'The Jacquerie and the march of the mind'	107

6.2	The illogical song	113
6.3	'The master tool of corporate enslavement'	116
6.4	'Schools for All'	116
7	Moral Economy	119
7.1	The moralist and the scientist	120
7.2	The moralist against the economist	123
7.3	Moralism resurgent	124
7.4	The judges judged	131
8	The Religion of Love and the Science of Wealth	136
8.1	The discovery of egoism	136
8.2	Economics as the science of venality	143
8.3	Economics, selfishness and humanity	150
8.4	Anti-economists against the religion of love	159
9	Crusaders and Consumers	163
9.1	The sacred versus the civilised	164
9.2	Nature's temple	167
9.3	The heathen as the philistine	173
10	Rival Gospels of Wealth	178
10.1	The conquest of nature	178
10.2	The triumph of energy	181
10.3	The gospel of technology and engineering	184
10.4	The gospel of work	185
Part IV		
11	The 'Unconquerable Private Interests'	191
11.1	The disharmony of interests: an argument	191
11.2	A harmony of interests: a thesis	194
11.3	Interested anti-economics appraised	195
11.4	The interests of an interest	196
11.5	Vested ideals	197
12	'The Infallible Dicta of the Holy Mother Church of Political Popery'	200
12.1	Authority: the attack	201
12.2	The public and the economists	204
13	'Economists, Glory to You and the Jews!': a Postscript on Anti-Semitism and Anti-Economics	213
13.1	The logic of the homology	213
13.2	Conclusions and qualifications	218

14	The Not-so-Puzzling Failure of Anti-Economics	220
14.1	The apparatus of criticism	220
14.2	The origins of dysfunction	226
14.3	In defence of criticism	231
<i>Notes</i>		239
<i>Bibliography</i>		276
<i>Index</i>		308