The Tradition of Free Trade

Lars Magnusson



Contents

	Acknowledgements	xiii
1	The invention of a tradition of free trade: an introduction	1
	A historical reading of the history of economics 4 The use and diffusion of economic language 14	
2	The heritage from Smith and classical political economy	20
	Adam Smith as a system builder 27 The historical Smith 30 The real classical economists 36	
3	The invention of a tradition: from the Corn Laws to the fair trade controversy	46
	The Christian moralist – and others S3 Manchester uses of Adam Smith 57 Popular economics 61 The fair trade debate 64	
4	The historical construction of mercantilism	70
	Mercantilism 72 Adam Smith's mercantile system today 74 The historical construction of a concept 78 Manchester and the mercantile system 82	

X11	Contents

The role of mercantilism in nineteenth-century economic thought 90

5	The American system	92
	The other face of American political economy 94	
	Henry C. Carey 100	
	John Rae 104	
	The American system 106	
	Free-traders in the Antebellum South 113	
	After the Civil War 116	
6	The three systems of political economy: a Swedish case of translation	123
	Early economics in Sweden 126	
	Physiocracy in Sweden 130	
	Smith, Sweden and the industrial system 140	
7	Epilogue	152
	Notes	158
	Select bibliography	178
	Index	190