

# Economy–Environment– Development–Knowledge

Ken Cole



London and New York

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<b>Prologue: what <i>can</i> we know about the world?</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 The scientific parameters of social existence</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Perceptions of reality</i>	5
<i>Economy</i>	6
<i>Environment</i>	9
<i>Development</i>	12
<i>Knowledge</i>	15
<i>Intellectual panorama, ideological vision, and political view</i>	19
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>Economy</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2 The economy</b>	<b>23</b>
<i>The economy and economists</i>	23
<i>Economists' differences</i>	24
<i>Economic perspectives and schools of economic thought</i>	27
<i>Supply and demand, demand and supply, or demand with supply</i>	29
<i>The elementary and the complex</i>	31
<b>3 The consumer as economic dynamic: the subjective preference theory of value</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>The subjective preference theory of value</i>	33
<i>Austrian economic theory</i>	35
<i>The neoclassical utopia</i>	37
<i>Perfect competition</i>	39
<i>Neoclassical economic policy</i>	43

<b>4</b>	<b>The producer as economic dynamic: the cost-of-production theory of value</b>	<b>49</b>
	<i>The cost-of-production theory of value</i>	49
	<i>Imperfect competition</i>	51
	<i>Economic management</i>	53
	<i>Capital controversy</i>	55
	<i>The resurgence of the cost-of-production theory of value</i>	58
<b>5</b>	<b>The citizen as economic dynamic: the abstract labour theory of value</b>	<b>63</b>
	<i>The abstract labour theory of value</i>	63
	<i>Human economic motivation</i>	65
	<i>The mode of production</i>	66
	<i>The capitalist mode of production</i>	67
	<i>Value and exchange</i>	70
	<i>Value and crisis</i>	73
	<i>Economic experience and economic analysis: the East Asian economic crisis and beyond</i>	77
<b>PART II</b>		
	<b>Environment</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>91</b>
	<i>The environmental issue</i>	91
	<i>The politics of the environment</i>	92
	<i>Questioning the environment</i>	94
	<i>Sustainable development</i>	95
	<i>Science and the myths of nature</i>	96
<b>7</b>	<b>The environment as a source of pleasure: egocentrism</b>	<b>99</b>
	<i>The primacy of human wants: egocentrism</i>	99
	<i>The pessimists</i>	101
	<i>The optimists</i>	104
	<i>The ideology of free market environmentalism</i>	107
	<i>The neoclassical exegesis</i>	110
	<i>Cost-benefit analysis</i>	112
	<i>The commoditization of the environment</i>	118
<b>8</b>	<b>The environment as a productive resource: ecocentrism</b>	<b>121</b>
	<i>The dependence of humans on the environment: ecocentrism</i>	121
	<i>Policy pragmatists</i>	124

*Uncertainty and the Gaia thesis* 125

*Social regulation and ecology* 126

**9 The environment and social evolution: sociocentrism** 135

*The co-evolution of society and the environment: sociocentrism* 135

*Environmental crises and commodity exchange* 137

*The social construction of environmental problems* 141

*The role of ideology* 146

**PART III**

**Development** 153

**10 Development** 155

*Development* 155

*Independent individuals* 156

*Dependent individuals* 158

*Class struggle* 161

*Development and human nature* 165

**11 Development as the fulfilment of individuals' potentials:  
modernization** 167

*Modernization* 167

*From the traditional to the modern* 169

*Structural adjustment* 172

*Modernization and good governance* 177

*The Multilateral Agreement on Investment* 178

**12 Development as fulfilling the technical potentials of  
cooperation: structuralism** 183

*Structuralism* 183

*Distribution and populism* 185

*Sustainable development, technology and institutions* 187

*Radical structuralism* 190

*The 'impasse'* 198

**13 Development as the fulfilment of people's social potentials:  
class struggle** 201

*People: passive or active?* 201

*The dialectics of human nature* 202

*Communism* 205

*Socialist development* 207

*Socialist development: the case of Cuba* 208  
*Cubanidad* 210  
*Socialist development, Cuban style* 214

**PART IV**

<b>Knowledge</b>	217
<b>14 Knowledge</b>	219
<i>Explanation</i>	219
<i>The evolution of self-consciousness</i>	222
<i>Experience and belief</i>	225
<i>Human nature and understanding</i>	226
<b>15 What? Identifying events: positivism</b>	229
<i>Events</i>	229
<i>Objectivity and truth</i>	231
<i>Reductionism</i>	233
<b>16 How? Explaining systems: paradigms</b>	237
<i>Systems</i>	237
<i>Paradigms</i>	238
<i>Revolutionary science</i>	239
<i>Postmodernism</i>	241
<b>17 Why? Understanding processes: praxis</b>	245
<i>Processes</i>	245
<i>Dialectics and understanding</i>	247
<i>Material reality and individual choice</i>	250
<i>Knowledge and change</i>	253
<i>Seeing ourselves through ourselves</i>	255
<b>18 Intellectual panorama, ideological vision, and political view</b>	257
<i>Conceptualizing reality</i>	257
<i>Cole's Law</i>	258
<i>Ideology and intellectual panoramas</i>	265
<i>The intellectual and society</i>	267
<i>The politics of knowledge</i>	268
<b>Epilogue: what do we know about the world?</b>	271
<i>References</i>	273
<i>Index</i>	297