



Synopsis

Rudolf Steiner's *Economics Course*

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Christopher Houghton Budd

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Rudolf Steiner's *Economics* Course

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Published by the Author

Lecture Titles (per CHB)

- 1: From Industrialism to World Economy
- 2: The Economic Process
- 3: Economic Science
- 4: Division of Labour and Creation of Value
- 5: The Production and Consumption of Values
- 6: "True Price"
- 7: The Factors of Price Formation
- 8: On Supply and Demand
- 9: The Forms of Capital
- 10: On Associations
- 11: The Conditions and Consequences of a World Economy
- 12: Money
- 13: The Economics of Intelligence
- 14: Key Concepts for World Economics

Discourse Titles (per CHB)

- 1: Points of Method
- 2: Concepts of Work
- 3: Cheapening of Division of Labour
- 4: Values
- 5: The Monetary System
- 6: Further on Money

Dates	Lectures	Discourses
24 July 1922	1	
25 July 1922	2	
26 July 1922	3	
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29 July 1922	6	
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1 August 1922	9	2
2 August 1922	10	3
3 August 1922	11	4
4 August 1922	12	5
5 August 1922	13	6

Synopsis of the Lectures (per CHB)

1: From Industrialism to World Economy (24.7.22)

Contrast between England and Germany in 19th century – Instinctive and conscious transitions to industrialism – Virgin soil of India and old middle-European agrarian economy – Emergence of the State in German economics instead of 1830's and 1840's ideals (Liberalism) – Inability to enter world economy – Absence of life's contrasts, in particular the contrast between cultural, rights and economic life – The threefold social order – Insufficient thinking in economics – Comparison of economics to a complete theory of light – Expansion beyond single personalities – Intelligence (ultra-violet)/Land (infra-red) – Unsuitability of natural scientific concepts – Invalidity of economics of isolated regions – World as a whole economic and social organism.

2: The Economic Process (25.7.22)

Economic process in perpetual motion – Exchange as essence of economics – Price – Fluctuation in price – Unreality of definitions – Ordinary doctrine of land, labour, capital – Animal economics – Apparent labour – Human labour connected to providing for more than oneself – Value created by elaboration of land by labour – Nonsense of Marx's view of labour – Economic irrelevance of labour in itself – Labour directed by intelligence also creates value – Exchange of values – Price and interplay of values – Cannot observe at rest what is in flux.

3: Economic Science (26.7.22)

Proper form of economic science – Ethics and natural science – Religion and economics in early history – Distinction between commandment and law – Distillation of law and appearance of labour and emancipation from religious life – Rise of egoism and search for democracy – Division of labour – Individual works for community – Economic impossibility of egoism – Division of labour requires altruism – Egoism contradicts facts of world economy – Labour exchanged "for a living" – Mean price – Trader.

4: Division of Labour and Creation of Value (27.7.22)

Cheapening effect of division of labour – Origin of capital through division of labour – Intelligence emancipates capital from land – Money – Capitalism and finance – Money as realised intelligence – Intelligence envalues capital – Investments – Borrowings – The circulation of capital – "difference of level" in terms of capacities – Diversity of capacities – Relation of two value poles to commodities and money – Essential nature of commodity and money – Mobility of thinking.

5: The Production and Consumption of Values (28.7.22)

The polarity of production and consumption – The economic process as an organic process – Envaluation and devaluation – Value-creating tension and value-creating movement – Analogy to kinetic and potential energy – Personal credit and the rate of interest – Real credit – Congestion of capital in land and its disappearance in intelligence – Land has no value – Real and apparent values – Associations – Distribution of the workforce – Variety of skill.

6: "True Price" (29.7.22)

"True price" formula – Capitalised land opposes production of goods – Two rates of interest – The economic significance of freed activity – Pure consumption – Goods and payment – Capital and lending – Cultural life and giving – Gift as 100% interest on land.

7: The Factors of Price Formation (30.7.22)

Purchase, loan and gift as three factors of price formation – The factors of rest – Fiction of purchase of labour – Reciprocal determination of values – Products of labour – True price and falsification of price – Origin of rent – Rent as compulsory gift – Creation of rent inherent in economic process – Agriculture as a single entity – Industrial capital constantly undervalued – Tendency of industrial capital to devalue – Self-provision with agriculture, not with capital – The need to establish equilibrium – Means of production – Industrial capital – Commodities – Goods – Need to be within process only possible in associations.

8: On Supply and Demand (31.7.22)

The idea of supply and demand – Supply, demand and price as primary factors – The role of rights – The role of individual faculties – Economic impossibilities – Economics and natural science – Associations for production, consumption and distribution – The economics of barter, of money and of human faculties.

9: The Forms of Capital (1.8.22)

Concept of "internal economies" – Distance between outlay and return – Role of gift – Association – Trade, loan and industrial capital – Loan capital and authority – Industrial capital – Raw materials and concepts of might – Markets and intelligence (wise or cunning) – Trade capital and competition – The rise of banking – The withdrawal of financial control from the human being – "Pure money business" and "objectless imperialism".

10: On Associations (2.8.22)

Circulation of values – Profit – Exchange creates value – Transformation of commodity into money – Associations – Advantage (profit) as pressure – Loan capital (enterprise) as suction – Interest, human mutuality and lending – Imagination and economic judgement – Associations – Public spirit – Threefold social order.

11: The Conditions and Consequences of a World Economy (3.8.22)

Evolution of economic life – Private economies – National economies – State economies – State as economic and cultural organism – Profit by consolidation of economies – Ricardo and Smith – England as leader of world trade – Origin of gold-based currencies – Transition from world trade to world economy – World economy as the end of consolidation – The falsity of Versailles and after – World economy as a closed economy – Relation of commodities and money – The non-depreciation of money – Total consumption by all humanity – Unsuitability of national economic thinking for world economy – Closed economic domains presuppose free gifts – Non-capitalisation of land – Relation of food production to free gifts to cultural life.

12: Money (4.8.22)

Money and price – The envaluation of money – Money as a medium of exchange – Purchase money (exchange money) – Loan money – Gift money – Correcting the function of money – The ageing of money – Associative management – Money and control of the economy.

13: The Economics of the Spirit (5.8.22)

Valuing intelligence – Premise of cultural needs – Freed activity as saved labour – Inherent compensatory balances.

14: Key Concepts for World Economics (6.8.22)

Modern economic science – Living concepts – Parallelism of real and false values – World-wide book-keeping – Medium of exchange as proper quality of money – The polarity of spent labour and saved labour – Land and its elaboration as the basis – Stored up labour requires saved up labour – Money as sum total of means of production – Ratio of population to land – Relation of currency to land and to gold – Prices