

Chapter 3 Command Economy And Its Legacy

This is a comprehensive study of China's economic reforms, from their beginnings at the end of 1978 through the completion of many of the initial reform measures during 1993. The features of Chinese reform that differ from the former USSR are highlighted.

This broad-ranging student textbook examines the rise of the Asia-Pacific as an important economic region. It looks at the sources of that rise, its future development and the possible consequences for the global economy. The analysis is divided into three sections considering: * how far the Asia-Pacific has developed as a regional system, looking at the patterns of integration of the principal economies * the relationship between the key individual economies of Japan, Korea, China and the United States * how the rise of the Asia-Pacific economy has affected the international economic system. In so doing it provides much-needed insights not only into the growth of this powerful economic region, but also the international context of Asia-Pacific development.

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How, despite thirty years of effort, Soviet attempts to build a national computer network were undone by socialists who seemed to behave like capitalists.

The Uneasy History of the Soviet Internet

How Not to Network a Nation

The Commanding Heights

Childrearing Values in the United States and China

Transformation at Work

Economic Systems

Basic Economics

Understanding Economics presents an interesting and accessible introduction to key economic ideas. The book clearly shows the relevance of economics to everyday situations. Examples are drawn from the internal workings of households, business firms and non-profit organizations. The book is user friendly in both style and content and requires no prior knowledge of economics and minimal mathematics.

The second edition of the Impact Evaluation in Practice handbook is a comprehensive and accessible introduction to impact evaluation for policy makers and development practitioners. First published in 2011, it has been used widely across the development and academic communities. The book incorporates real-world examples to present practical guidelines for designing and implementing impact evaluations. Readers will gain an understanding of impact evaluations and the best ways to use them to design evidence-based policies and programs. The updated version covers the newest techniques for evaluating programs and includes state-of-the-art implementation advice, as well as an expanded set of examples and case studies that draw on recent development challenges. It also includes new material on research ethics and partnerships to conduct impact evaluation. The handbook is divided into four sections: Part One discusses what to evaluate and why; Part Two presents the main impact evaluation methods; Part Three addresses how to manage impact evaluations; Part Four reviews impact evaluation sampling and data collection. Case studies illustrate different applications of impact evaluations. The book links to complementary instructional material available online, including an applied case as well as questions and answers. The updated second edition will be a valuable resource for the international development community, universities, and policy makers looking to build better evidence around what works in development.

By 1999, Russia's economy was growing at almost 7% per year, and by 2008 reached 11th place in the world GDP rankings. Russia is now the world's second largest producer and exporter of oil, the largest producer and exporter of natural gas, and as a result has the third largest stock of foreign exchange reserves in the world, behind only China and Japan. But while this impressive economic growth has raised the average standard of living and put a number of wealthy Russians on the Forbes billionaires list, it has failed to solve the country's deep economic and social problems inherited from the Soviet times. Russia continues to suffer from a distorted economic structure, with its low labor productivity, heavy reliance on natural resource extraction, low life expectancy, high income inequality, and weak institutions. While a voluminous amount of literature has studied various individual aspects of the Russian economy, in the West there has been no comprehensive and systematic analysis of the socialist legacies, the current state, and future prospects of the Russian economy gathered in one book. The Oxford Handbook of the Russian Economy fills this gap by offering a broad range of topics written by the best Western and Russian scholars of the Russian economy. While the book's focus is the current state of the Russian economy, the first part of the book also addresses the legacy of the Soviet command economy and offers an analysis of institutional aspects of Russia's economic development over the last decade. The second part covers the most important sectors of the economy. The third part examines the economic challenges created by the gigantic magnitude of regional, geographic, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity of Russia. The fourth part covers various social issues, including health, education, and demographic challenges. It will also examine broad policy challenges, including the tax system, rule of law, as well as corruption and the underground economy. Michael Alexeev and Shlomo Weber provide for the first time in one volume a complete, well-rounded, and essential look at the complex, emerging Russian economy.

Offers a rare look into North Korean society, discussing the daily lives of North Korea's citizens and social conditions in the authoritarian state.

Making Use of Hegel and the Concepts of Public and Merit Goods

To Understand The World Understand Economics

Ethical Dimensions of the Economy

The 21st Century Command Economy

The Emergence of Capitalism in China

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Projects and Policies

The Economics of Coercion and Conflict

This book, a second edition, has been significantly expanded and updated. It revisits the process of institutional change: its characteristics, determinants and implications for economic performance.

Old habits, China's powerful state administration, and the hierarchy of the former command economy will continue to have profound effects on how firms act and how they adjust to change. --Jacket.

The papers brought together in this volume represent a decade of advances in the historical political economy of defence, dictatorship, and warfare. They address defining events and institutions of the world in the twentieth century: economic consequences of repression and violence, the outcomes of two world wars, and the rise and fall of communism. They cross traditional disciplinary boundaries, combining a broad sweep with close attention to measurement and narrative detail; offering insights into these issues from economics, history, political science, and statistics; and demonstrating in action the value of a multi-disciplinary approach. The author was one of the first economists to leverage the opening of former Soviet archives. He has led international projects that reinvented the quantitative economics of the two world wars and contributed significantly to historical Soviet studies. In 2012, he shared with Andrei Markevich the Russian National Prize for Applied Economics, which was awarded in recognition of their research. Contents:Global Conflict:War and Disintegration, 1914-1950 (Jari Eloranta and Mark Harrison)Why the Wealthy Won: Economic Mobilization and Economic Development in Two World Wars (Mark Harrison)The USSR and Total War: Why Didn't the Soviet Economy Collapse in 1942? (Mark Harrison)The Frequency of Wars (Mark Harrison and Nikolaus Wolf)Communism and Defense:Soviet Industry and the Red Army Under Stalin: A Military-Industrial Complex? (Mark Harrison)Contracting for Quality Under a Dictator: The Soviet Defense Market, 1930-1950 (Mark Harrison and Andrei Markevich)A Soviet Quasi-Market for Inventions: Jet Propulsion, 1932-1946 (Mark Harrison)The Political Economy of a Soviet Military R&D Failure: Steam Power for Aviation, 1932-1939 (Mark Harrison)Communism and Coercion:The Fundamental Problem of Command: Plan and Compliance in a Partially Centralized Economy (Mark Harrison)Accumulation and Labor Coercion Under Late Stalinism (Paul R Gregory and Mark Harrison)Economic Information in the Life and Death of the Soviet Command System (Mark Harrison)Coercion, Compliance, and the Collapse of the Soviet Command Economy (Mark Harrison) Readership: Professionals, researchers, and advanced undergraduates in history, applied economics and political science. Key Features:Includes widely cited explanations of the outcomes of the world wars, communism's successes and failures in peace and war, and the eventual collapse of the Soviet UnionOne of the first economists to take advantage of the opening of former Soviet archives, Mark Harrison went on to lead international projects that reinvented the quantitative economics of the two world wars and to deeper investigations of the working arrangements of Soviet rule in a comparative perspectiveKeywords:Defence;Dictatorship;Coercion;Conflict;Procurement;Mobilization;Political Economy;Repression;War The most powerful force in the world economy today is the redefinition of the relationship between state and marketplace - a process that goes by the name of privatization though this term is inadequate to express its far-reaching changes. We are moving from an era in which governments sought to seize and control the 'commanding heights' of the economy to an era in which the idea of free markets is capturing the commanding heights of world economic thinking. Basic views of how society ought to be organized are undergoing rapid change, trillions of dollars are changing hands and so is fundamental political power. Great new wealth is being created - as are huge opportunities and huge risks. Taking a worldwide perspective, including Britain, where the process began with Mrs Thatcher, Europe and the former USSR, China, Latin America and the US, THE COMMANDING HEIGHTS shows how a revolution in ideas is transforming the world economy - why it is happening, how it can go wrong and what it will mean for the global economy going into the twenty-first century.

China and Globalization

Organizational Change in Post-Communist Europe

Economic Growth with Equity

The Evolving Role of Law in Russia's Transition to Capitalism

A Guide

Model Rules of Professional Conduct

The Social, Economic, and Political Transformation of Chinese Society

Highlighting recent revolutionary changes, this volume deals with the ongoing transformation from central planning towards more efficient economic structures in Eastern and Central Europe and the former USSR. Political democracy and the creation of market economies have now become realistic aims but the process of reform is only just beginning and is likely to take many years. The papers and discussions deal with systematic changes, deregulation, abolition of price controls and macroeconomic fiscal and monetary policies needed to stabilise the economics and to implement appropriate structural changes.

What is the effect of a new infrastructure on the well-being of a local community? Is a tax reform desirable? Does the privatization of a telecommunication provider increase social welfare? To answer these questions governments and their policy advisors should have in mind an operative definition of social welfare, and cannot rely on simple official statistics, such as GDP. The price we observe are often misleading as welfare signals, and costs and benefits for the society should be based on 'shadow prices', revealing the social opportunity costs of goods and of changes of the world. This book explains how to apply these welfare economics ideas to the real world. After a theoretical discussion of the concept of social welfare, a critical analysis of the traditional doctrine of welfare economics embodied in the Two Fundamental Theorems, and a presentation of social cost-benefit analysis, the book introduce the readers to an applied framework. This includes the empirical estimation of shadow prices of goods, of the social cost of labour and capital, the assessment of risk. This book also includes the state of the art of international experience with CBA, including ex-post evaluation of major projects, economic rates of return in different sectors, and a case study on privatisation, is presented. This book offers a unique and original blend of theory, empirics and experience. The theoretical discussion clarifies why shadow prices are not virtual market equilibrium prices, as they arise as the solution of a planning problem, often with governments and economic agents constrained in their information and powers. The empirical chapters show how to compute proxies of the shadow prices in simple ways. The experience chapters draw from first hand research, gained by the Author and his collaborators over many years of advisory work for the European Commission and other international and national institutions.

An approach to comparative economic systems that avoids simple dichotomies to examine a wide variety of institutional and systemic arrangements, with updated country case studies. Comparative economics, with its traditional dichotomies of socialism versus capitalism, private versus state, and planning versus market, is changing. This innovative textbook offers a new approach to understanding different economic systems that reflects both recent transformations in the world economy and recent changes in the field.This new edition examines a wide variety of institutional and systemic arrangements, many of which reflect deep roots in countries' cultures and histories. The book has been updated and revised throughout, with new material in both the historical overview and the country case studies. It offers a broad survey of economic systems, then looks separately at market capitalism, Marxism and socialism, and "new traditional economies" (with an emphasis on the role of religions, Islam in particular, in economic systems). It presents case studies of advanced capitalist nations, including the United States, Japan, Sweden, and Germany; alternative paths in the transition from socialist to market economies taken by such countries as Russia, the former Soviet republics, Poland, China, and the two Koreas; and developing countries, including India, Iran, South Africa, Mexico, and Brazil. The new chapters on Brazil and South Africa complete the book's coverage of all five BRICS nations; the chapter on South Africa extends the book's comparative treatment to another continent. The chapter on Brazil with its account of the role of the Amazon rain forest as a great carbon sink expands the coverage of global environmental and sustainability issues. Each chapter ends with discussion questions.

This book provides a unique and detailed examination of the complex processes of transformation in former state-owned enterprises in the Czech Republic. Drawing on in-depth case studies of organizational transformation, the authors adopt a social-institutionalist approach to the study of organizational change, applying it in order to develop an explanation of organizational restructuring and management redefinition during the early transition period of 1990-1996. In particular, they highlight how these processes have been shaped by continuing historical state-socialist legacies and the powerful role played by senior managers in their efforts to fashion the new privatized organizations in their own interests.

Asian Economic Systems

A Guide to the Socialist Economies

The Growth of Integration and Competitiveness

Growing Out of the Plan

Markets and Power

Applied Welfare Economics

Management and Transformation in the Czech Republic

This book tells the story of Taiwan's economic revolution—how Taiwan transformed itself from a planned economy into a market economy between 1949 and 1965. The authors posit that it was the Kuomintang Government's endorsement of property rights reform and institutional change that enabled Taiwan to transform from an impoverished command economy to one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The book gives special attention to how a small group of political and economic leaders began adopting the new ideas and beliefs that created the vision that enabled them to embrace institutional and organizational innovations, actions which led to the formation of the new market economy. Using first-hand interview material with key government officials from the period, and analyses of hitherto unused Chinese-language archives including: the diaries of Chiang Kai-shek, Kuomintang party archives, and personal papers of Kuomintang leaders, as well as newspaper and journal articles published in Taiwan between 1949 and 1965, this book is both empirically rich, and gives the reader insights into Taiwan's developmental experience and the direction in which, under different circumstances, China's post-war expansion might have proceeded. Taiwan's Economic Transition will be an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the economic and political history and development of Taiwan. More broadly it will also appeal to scholars and students of China's historical and contemporary development, Asian economics, and Asian studies.

To promote economic growth and development, policymakers must understand how price structures impact on trade and other related factors.

Overview This book is a philosophical reflection (using mainly Hegel, in addition to I Adam Smith, Kant, Marx and Catholic Social Thought) about the soc- political dimension of economics. In it I both agree and disagree with the slogan that “the least government is the best government. ” I agree with the slogan, in particular as it applies to the economic domain. Adam Smith taught us that rational and self-interested individuals, left by themselves, create a more efficient and reliable economic system than one in which the government has a heavy role as was the case in his time with the merc- tile system (Smith, 14, 651). Ludwig von Mises demonstrated the same idea for the communist command economy (Hayek 1935, 87–130). I d- agree with the above mentioned slogan if it is interpreted as suggesting that we can best forget about the role of the government for a good functioning economy. Instead, I will argue that the government has an important fu- tion in creating the proper regulations and the wise institutional arran- ments which will allow the economy to flourish in a more efficient, fair and humane way. This book is interdisciplinary in nature. It is a philosophical and ethical reflection on economics. Hence, I make use of philosophical ideas, often but not exclusively those of Hegel. I reflect philosophically on economic concepts.

This work examines ideas about the role of law and legal reform in the creation of market capitalist economies, focusing on post communist transition in Russia. Looking at the example of Russia, an enquiry is made into the wider relationship between democracy, regulation and the market in modern capitalism.

A Comparison of Belief Systems and Social Structure

The Soviet State Apparatus and Economic Policy 1945–53

Views from Within

China's Rise in the World ICT Industry

The Hidden People of North Korea

Neoliberalism and the Law in Post Communist Transition

The Stalinist Command Economy

The changes that are taking place under glasnost and perestroika cannot be understood without the sort of historical and institutional material which A Guide to the Socialist Economies makes available.

One of the most striking phenomena of China's remarkable economic growth is that its huge volume of exports are becoming high-tech. China is now the world's largest Information and Communication Technology (ICT) exporter, having overtaken Japan and the European Union in 2003 and the United States in 2004. China's ICT industry is also the largest manufacturing sector within the Chinese economy. This book examines how China has attained this leading position and presents one of the first accounts of China's ICT development model with specific reference to the experiences of East Asian 'tigers'. It shows how the development of the industry was military-driven before 1978, and how subsequently Chinese policymakers, struggling with domestic market reform and challenged by trade liberalisation and globalisation, managed to push through ICT development strategies. Overall, it discusses the debates between policymakers as to the most appropriate economic development strategy for 'catching-up' and demonstrates how China moved away from the across-the-board protectionist and interventionist industrial policies pursued by many developing countries, but has not wholeheartedly followed the neo-liberal free trade and market polices favoured by the World Bank, WTO and IMF. By doing so, it sheds light on the limitations of China's strategies moving forward, and identifies policy lessons for other developing countries.

Mastering the study of economics has never been easier. BASIC ECONOMICS introduces you to the fundamentals of macro- and microeconomics, while addressing some of the most stimulating topics affecting the world today. BASIC ECONOMICS covers timely issues like monetary policy, monopolies, and the labor market, as well as the recent financial market collapse and housing crises. This streamlined and straightforward text can also be packaged with Coursemate, an online interactive learning tool that contains quizzes, videos, graphing tutorials, news, debates and data all in one place geared to help you succeed in your course! Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

A detailed examination of economic policy-making in the USSR during the period of the Second Five-Year Plan (1933-1937). The work examines the process by which the plan was formulated and implemented, through a series of detailed case-studies, based on archival material, examining the role of the Politburo, the Soviet government, Gosplan and the main economic commissariats. It examines the relationship between the conflicts within the economic commissariats and the unleashing of the Great Purges 1936-38. The work aims towards a new conceptualisation of the Stalinist state.

Chinese Economic Reform, 1978-1993

Impact Evaluation in Practice, Second Edition

Leadership, Property Rights and Institutional Change 1949-1965

Socialist Economies and the Transition to the Market

Bridges: Economic Systems

Economics of Institutional Change

This book, a third edition, has been significantly expanded and updated. It revisits the process of institutional change: its characteristics, determinants and implications for economic performance. New chapters address the significance of Post-Communist transition, the differences and importance of initial conditions in institutional building, and, social norms, values, and happiness. Other chapters have been expanded to include, for example, a focus on the Washington consensus, commentary on the 2008 financial crisis, state capacity and corruption, and new findings on redistribution and inequality. With specific focus on Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, this revised edition examines the process of development, and its interdependence with institutions.

The Model Rules of Professional Conduct provides an up-to-date resource for information on legal ethics. Federal, state and local courts in all jurisdictions look to the Rules for guidance in solving lawyer malpractice cases, disciplinary actions, disqualification issues, sanctions questions and much more. In this volume, black-letter Rules of Professional Conduct are followed by numbered Comments that explain each Rule's purpose and provide suggestions for its practical application. The Rules will help you identify proper conduct in a variety of given situations, review those instances where discretionary action is possible, and define the nature of the relationship between you and your clients, colleagues and the courts.

In what ways do the actions and economic behavior of today's multinational corporations resemble the functioning and processes of the old command economics of the Soviet Union? By ignoring questions about power relations in markets, mainstream neoclassically-oriented economists conclude that there are no significant power structures operating in market systems to control allocation and distribution. This book argues to the contrary that there are fundamental and systemic power structures - monopoly, access to information or finance, employer power, etc. - at work in market economies, which affects their ability to achieve real "competition" in much the same way as state-controlled, command economies hinder business activities. Thus, for example, the biggest firms at the hubs of financial "networks" wield a kind of "shaping power" upon large numbers of relatively autonomous firms, not only upon those that belong to the networks but also on the many firms outside them that are also affected.

Markets and PowerThe 21st Century Command EconomyRoutledge

Everyday Life in the Hermit Kingdom

Decision-making in the Stalinist Command Economy, 1932-37

Dragon in a Three-piece Suit

Industrial Strategies and the Catch-Up Development Model

The Oxford Handbook of the Russian Economy

Central and Eastern Europe Revisited

Economic Dynamism in the Asia-Pacific

Economics is a very significant field to master if you want to succeed in life, or at the least, understand how the world around you influences your conditions and decisions. Economics governs everything from the price you pay for your coffee to the Politics governing you and the rest of the country. Think about all the things that is happening now wars, political conflicts between countries and companies compete, if you don't care about these things think about your consume: food, shelter, clothing, transportation, healthcare, and entertainment. How do you acquire those items? You do not produce them yourself. You buy them. How do you afford the things you buy? You work for pay. Or if you do not, someone else does on your behalf. Yet most of us never have enough to buy all the things we want. If you still do not believe that economy is not important, consider the following: Does everyone need food to eat? Does everyone need a decent place to live? Does everyone have access to healthcare? In every country in the world, there are people who are hungry, homeless (for example, those who call park benches their beds), and in need of healthcare, just to focus on a few critical goods and services. Why is this the case? All of these problems will be understood if we understand the economy and its impact on our lives.

Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2009! In its quarter-century-long shift from communism to capitalism, China has transformed itself from a desperately poor nation into a country with one of the fastest-growing and largest economies in the world. Doug Guthrie examines the reforms driving the economic genesis in this compact and highly readable introduction to contemporary China. He highlights the social, cultural and political factors fostering this revolutionary change and interweaves a broad structural analysis with a consideration of social changes at the micro and macro levels. In this new, revised edition author Guthrie updates his story on modern China and provides the latest authoritative data and examples from current events to chart where this dynamically changing society is headed and what the likely consequences for the rest of the world will be.

The book is well written and clearly structured, bringing together much dispersed material. The most interesting part of the book is the case study of the Czech engineering firm CKD. The case study gives an insight into the continuing processes of transition: transition is a process, rather than a jump from Socialism to capitalism. The author provides solid evidence on the ways in which adjusting to the market has proved painful, and in the end unsuccessful for CKD, which has been merged with another firm. Overall, Transformation at Work provides a valuable insight into the realities of the transition process at the enterprise level' - Employee Relations In this book, Anna Pollert questions the values hidden in the burgeoning literature on 'transformation', and addresses the main concerns arising from these. In exploring the key issues of post-communist transformation, the author discusses important theoretical issues about the nature of change and continuity, such as historical, socio-economic and political effects of transformation, the broad problems of how workers and their organizations respond to change from command to capitalist economies, and case studies of how managers, workers and trade unionists experience these changes within their organizations. Transformation at Work explores the key issues of post-communist transformation in Eastern Europe. The author discusses important aspects of the nature of change and continuity including: historical, socio-economic and political effects; how workers and their organizations respond to change from command to capitalist economies; and how managers, workers and trade unionists experience change within their organizations. "Ukraine's economy has been slipping backwards for nearly a decade, resulting in a significant fall in the living standards of the Ukrainian people. Putting Ukraine back on the path to prosperity will require policy makers to stop letting economic crises dictate the policy agenda. Short-term problems need to be dealt with in the context of a longer-term strategy." What strategy should Ukraine follow? This report identifies and evaluates three alternatives, all of which are under active consideration today as Ukraine considers what to do after ten years of halting reforms and economic decline. 'Economic Growth with Equity' evaluates each strategy in terms of its probable impact on fiscal balances, inflation, the current account deficit, economic growth, employment, and equity. The report makes recommendations on the best strategy to help Ukraine achieve its potential and recover from the present depression.

In the New Market Economies of Central Eastern Europe

Rethinking the Theory of Money, Credit, and Macroeconomics

Taiwan's Economic Transformation

Understanding Economics

Which Strategy for Ukraine?

The Battle Between Government And The Marketplace

Price Policies and Economic Growth

Hong Xiao examines the linkage between social structure and child-rearing values in the United States and China in light of class-value, gender-value, and culture-value theory. Her findings challenge a number of common assumptions and popular beliefs and shed light on how class, gender, and culture shape belief systems.

This book is the definitive scholarly work on money, credit and macroeconomics for the twenty-first century. Nine decades ago Keynes claimed to be writing a work that would "largely revolutionize the way the world thinks about economic problems". This is a modern day attempt with the same purpose.

Provides an up-to-date account of how the process of economic transition in eastern Europe is unfolding from the point of view of eastern European economists assessing their native economies. The book focuses on three countries leading the reform efforts--Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland.

Documents the rise and fall of a market economy in China from 1000-1500. Since the economic liberalization of the 1980s, the Chinese economy has boomed and is poised to become the world's largest market economy, a position traditional China held a millennium ago. Will

Guanglin Liu's bold and fascinating book is the first to rely on quantitative methods to investigate the early market economy that existed in China, making use of rare market and population data produced by the Song dynasty in the eleventh century. A counterexample comes from the century around 1400 when the early Ming court deliberately turned agrarian society into a command economy system. This radical change not only shrank markets, but also caused a sharp decline in the living standards of common people. Liu's landmark study of the rise and fall of a market economy highlights important issues for contemporary China at both the empirical and theoretical levels. William Guanglin Liu is Associate Professor of History at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

The Economic Transformation of Eastern Europe

The Chinese Market Economy, 1000-1500

Economics and Politics of Transition

A New Statement for the Twenty-First Century

Comparative Economics in a Transforming World Economy, third edition

Asian Economic Systems provides readers with a crisp analytic framework, concepts and narrative highlighting contemporary Asia's systemic diversity. The framework facilitates insightful comparison with the western neoclassical ideal. This method allows students to easily appreciate the special virtues of various Asian economic systems, and compare them with those offered in the west. This objective is buttressed with background material on Asian economic history where appropriate, together with basic data on Asian and global economic performance to help students integrate concepts with experience. The approach provides an objective platform for discussing Asia's place and future in the new global order. It makes it clear that there is no universally best economic system. There are a variety of good systems and nations should choose the system that best suits their cultural heritage, values and aspirations. The approach informs discussions about the wisdom of forming regional free trade zones, economic communities (like ASEAN), and unions (analogous to the European Union), as well as forging a one-world system of economic governance. Also, Asian Economic Systems has a secondary goal. It provides the tools needed for training students in how to apply microeconomic, macroeconomic and financial principles to practical issues of systems and policies. The book focuses on East and Southeast Asia. The term Asia is used as a shorthand for the cultural region dominated historically by Confucian kinship networks, Japanese communalism and Theravada Buddhism, and more recently by MarxistOCole Leninist communism. It excludes the Middle East, Central Asia, the Himalayan states, South Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Russia and America's Asia Pacific possessions. The book identifies and elaborates four rival market systems in contemporary Asia each with its own distinctive performance characteristics, potentials and humanist properties: (1) communist (China, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia), (2) Confucian (Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and South Korea), (3) communal (Japan), and (4) Theravada Buddhist (Thailand and Sri Lanka). Their comparative merit is partly obscured by differences in stages of economic development, epochal, and conjunctural factors, but their special positive and negative attributes are unmistakable, and are compared with North Korea's communist command system which is the region's fifth core alternative to democratic free enterprise.