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0521481236 - Big Business and the Wealth of Nations

Edited by Alfred D. Chandler, Franco Amatori and Takashi Hikino

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Big business and the wealth of nations

Written in nontechnical terms, *Big Business and the Wealth of Nations* explains how the dynamics of big business have influenced national and international economies in the twentieth century. A path-breaking study, it provides the first systematic treatment of big business in advanced, emerging, and centrally planned economies from the late nineteenth century, when big businesses first appeared in American and West European manufacturing, to the present. Large industrial enterprises have played a vital role in developing new technologies and commercializing new products for over a century in all of the major countries. How such firms emerged and evolved in different economic, political, and social settings constitutes a significant part of twentieth-century world history. This historical review of big business is particularly valuable at the present time, when the viability of large enterprises is being challenged by small firms, networks, and alliances. These essays, written by internationally known historians and economists, help one to understand the essential role and functions of big businesses, past and present.

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