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0521663474 - 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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Edited by

ALFRED D. CHANDLER, JR.

Harvard University

FRANCO AMATORI

Bocconi University

TAKASHI HIKINO

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University



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Contributors

Franco Amatori, Istituto di Storia Economica, Università Bocconi, Milan, Italy.

Alice H. Amsden, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA.

María Innés Barbero, Departament de Ciències Socials, Universidad de Luján, Luján, Argentina.

Albert Carreras, Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University, Boston, USA.

Giovanni Dosi, Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche, Università 'la Sapienza' di Roma, Rome, Italy.

Jeffrey R. Fear, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA.

Patrick Fridenson, Centre de Recherches Historiques, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France.

Takashi Hikino, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, and Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University, Boston, USA.

Geoffrey Jones, Department of Economics, University of Reading, Reading, England.

William Lazonick, Center for Industrial Competitiveness, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Lowell, USA, and INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France.

Thomas K. McCraw, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University, Boston, USA.

Hidemasa Morikawa, Department of Management and Information, Toyohashi Sozo College, Toyohashi, Japan.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Harm G. Schröter, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany.

Mary O'Sullivan, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France.

Xavier Tafunell, Department of Economics and Business, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

Alice Teichova, Girton College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.

Ulrich Wengenroth, Central Institute for the History of Technology, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany.

Andrei Yu. Yudanov, Financial Academy, The Government of Russian Federation, Moscow, Russia.