MPhil (Econ.) & MSc (Political Economy)

Dept. of Economics

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens



## Lecture 4: From Mercantilism to Classical Political Economy

Nicholas J. Theocharakis

## Objectives of this lecture

- ☐ To briefly describe the transition from mercantilism to classical political economy
- ☐ To show the influence of French political economy on classical political economy
- ☐ To analyse the theories of the economists who preceded the Physiocrats
- ☐ To analyse the Physiocratic School

## Contents

- Boisguilbert
- Vauban
- Law
- Cantillon
- Bernoulli



## Contents

- Physiocrats
  - Quesnay (Tableau économique)
  - Mirabeau
  - Dupont de Nemours
  - De la Riviere, Baudeau, Le Trosne.
- Turgot
- Galiani



## Pierre le Pesant, Sieur de Boisguilbert, 1646–1714: France between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> c.

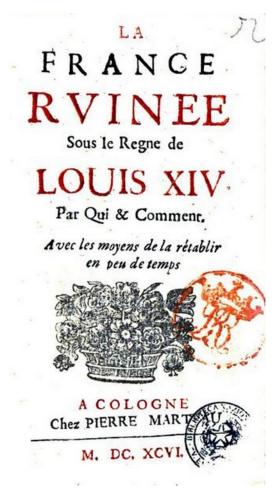




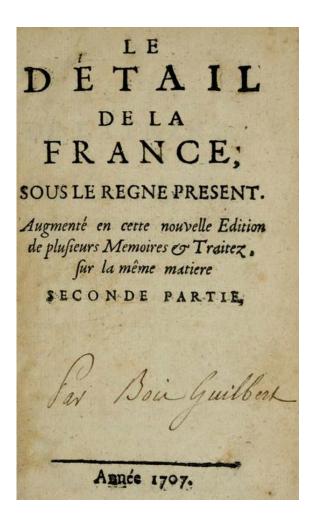




## Pierre le Pesant, Sieur de Boisguilbert



1706



1697-1707



## TRAITÉ

DE LA NATURE, CULTURE, COMMERCE ET INTÉRET

## DES GRAINS,

TANT PAR RAPPORT AU PUBLIC, QU'A TOUTES LES CONDITIONS D'UN ÉTAT;

DIVISÉ EN DEUX PARTIES,

DONT LA PREMIÈRE FAIT VOIR QUE PLUS LES GRAINS SONT A VIL PRIX,
PLUS LES PAUVRES, SURTOUT LES OUVRIERS, SONT MISÉRABLES;
ET LA SECONDE, QUE PLUS IL SORT DES BLÉS D'UN ROYAUME, ET PLUS IL SE GARANTIT
DES FUNESTES EFFETS D'UNE EXTRÊME DISETTE.

## FACTUM DE LA FRANCE,

 $\mathbf{o}\mathbf{u}$ 

MOYENS TRÈS-FACILES DE FAIRE RECEVOIR AU ROI QUATRE-VINGTS MILLIONS PAR-DESSUS LA CAPITATION, PRATICABLES PAR DEUX HEURES DE TRAVAIL DE MM. LES MINISTRES ET UN MOIS D'EXÉCUTION DE LA PART DES PEUPLES, SANS CONGÉDIER AUCUN FERMIER GÉNÉRAL NI PARTICULIER, NI AUTRE MOUVEMENT QUE DE RÉTABLIR QUATRE OU CINQ FOIS DAVANTAGE DE REVENU A LA FRANCE, C'EST-A-DIRE, PLUS DE CINQ CENTS MILLIONS SUR PLUS DE MILLE CINQ CENTS ANÉANTIS DEPUIS 1661, PARCE QU'ON FAIT VOIR CLAIREMENT, EN MÈME TEMPS, QUE L'ON NE PEUT FAIRE D'OBJECTION CONTRE CETTE PROPOSITION, SOIT PAR RAPPORT AU TEMPS ET A LA CONJONCTURE, COMME N'ÉTÂNT PAS PROPRES A AUCUN CHANGEMENT, SOIT AU PRÉTENDU PÉRIL, RISQUE, OU QUELQUES AUTRES CAUSES QUE CE PUISSE ÊTRE, SANS RENONCER A LA RAISON ET AU SENS COMMUN; EN SORTE QUE L'ON MAINTIENT QU'IL N'Y A POINT D'HOMME SUR LA TERRE QUI OSE METTRE SUR LE PAPIER UNE PAREILLE CONTRADICTION, ET LA SOUSCRIRE DE SON NOM, SANS SE PERDRE D'HONNEUR; ET QUE L'ON MONTRE EN MÊME TEMPS L'IMPOSSIBILITÉ DE SORTIR AUTREMENT DE LA CONJONCTURE PRÉSENTE.

## TESTAMENT

DE MONSIEUR

DE

## VAUBAN.

MARECHAL DE FRANCE, & premier Ingenieur du Roi.

DANS LEQUEL

Ce Seigneur donne les moiens d'augmenter considerablement les revenus de la Couronne, par l'établissement d'une Dixme Royale; & suppression des Impors, sans apprehension d'aucune revolution dans l'Etat.

TOME PREMIER.



M. DCCVII.

## DISSERTATION

De la nature des Richesses, de l'Argent & des Tributs, où l'on découvre la fausse idée qui régne dans le Monde à l'égard de ces trois articles.

#### CHAPITRE PREMIER ...

Out le Monde veut être riche, & la plûpart ne travaillent nuit & jour que pour le devenir; mais on se méprend pour l'ordinaire dans la route que l'on prend pour y réussir.

# DETAIL DELA FRANCE:

SOUS LE REGNE PRESENT.

Augmenté en cette nouvelle Edition de plusieurs Memoires & Traitez. sur la même matiere

SECONDE PARTIE

far Boin Guilbert

Année 1707.

Les deux cens Professions qui entrent aujourd'huy dans la composition d'un Etat poly & opulent; ce qui commence aux Boulangers, & sinit aux Comédiens, ne sont
pour la plûpart d'abord apellées les unes
aprés les autres que par la volupté; mais
elles ne sont pas si-tôt introduites & comme
pris racine, que faisant aprés cela partie de
la substance d'un Etat, elles n'en peuvent
être disjointes ou séparées, sans altérer aussi-tôt tout le Corps.

200 professions that make a civilized and opulent State



### Equilibrium Laissez-faire

La nature donc ou la providence, peuvent seules faire observer cette justice, pourvû encore une sois que qui que ce soit qu'elles ne s'en mélent; & voicy comme elles s'en aquitent. Elles établissent d'abord une égale nécessité de vendre & d'acheter dans toutes sortes de trafics; de façon que le seul desir de prosit soit l'ame de tous les marchez, tant dans le vendeur que dans l'acheteur;

cest

[257]

c'est à l'aide de cet équilibre & de cette balance, que l'un & l'autre sont également forcez

d'entendre raison, & de s'y mettre.

La moindre dérogeance, sans qu'il importe dans lequel des deux, gâte aussi-tôt
tout; & pourvû que l'un s'en aperçoive, il
fait aussi-tôt capituler l'autre, & le veut avoir
à discretion; & s'il ne luy tire pas l'ame du
corps, ce n'est pas manque de bonne volonté; puisqu'il ne tiendroit pas à luy qu'il n'en
usât comme dans les Villes pressées par un
long Siege, où l'on achéte le pain cent sois
le prix ordinaire, parce qu'il y va de la
vie.

Tant, encore une fois, qu'on laisse faire la nature, on ne doit rien craindre de pareil, ainsi ce n'est que parce que l'on l'a déconcerte, & qu'on dérange tous les jours ses opé-

rations, que le malheur arrive.

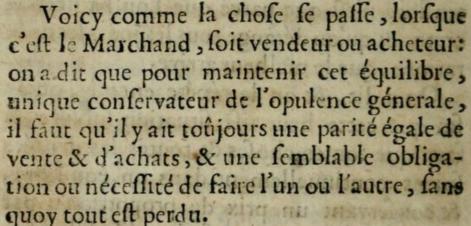
On a dit, & on le répéte encore, qu'afin que cette heureuse situation subsiste, il faut que toutes choses & toutes les denrées soient continuellement dans un équilibre, & conservant un prix de proportion, par raport entr'elles, & aux frais qu'il a falu faire pour les établir.

Or on sçait que du moment que ce qui est en équilibre, comme dans une balance, reçoit le moindre surcroît en un des côtez, incontinent l'autre est emporté aussi haut que

Sil

Y iii

#### meme erct.



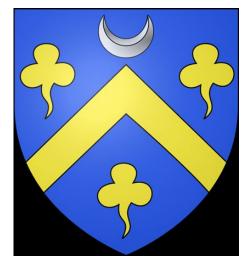
Equilibrium unique guarantee of the general opulence

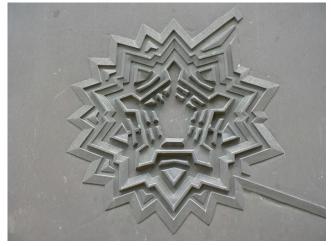


## Sébastien le Prestre, Seigneur de Vauban, 1633-1707



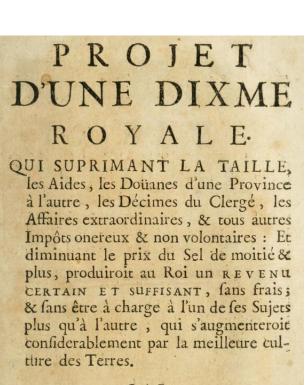












PAR

Mr LE MARECHAL DE VAUBAN, Chevalier des Ordres du Roi, Commissaire General des Fortifications, & Gouverneur de la Citadelle de Lille.



M. DCCVIII.





John Law attributed to Alexis Simon Belle oil on canvas, circa 1715-1720, 813 mm x 635 mm, oval, NPG 191

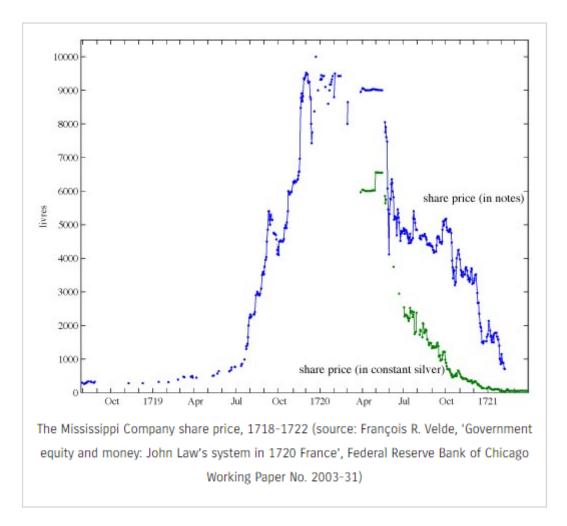


John Law, by Casimir Balthazar



- May 1716, John Law, Controller General of Finances of France under the Duke of Orléans
- Creation of the *Banque Générale Privée* (paper money). It was a private bank, but three-quarters of the capital consisted of government bills and government-accepted notes.
- August 1717, Law bought the Mississippi Company to help the French colony in Louisiana.
   In the same year Law conceived a joint-stock trading company called the Compagnie d'Occident. Law was named the Chief Director of this new company, which was granted a trade monopoly of the West Indies and North America by the French government.
- The company was involved in the Atlantic slave trade, importing African slaves to points as far North as modern Illinois along the Mississippi River.
- The bank became the *Banque Royale* in 1718, meaning the notes were guaranteed by the king, Louis XV of France.
- The Mississippi Company absorbed the Compagnie des Indes Orientales, the Compagnie de Chine, and other rival trading companies and became the Compagnie Perpétuelle des Indes in May 1719 with a monopoly of French commerce on all the seas. Simultaneously, the bank began issuing more notes than it could represent in coinage; this led to a currency devaluation, which was eventually followed by a bank run when the value of the new paper currency was halved.
- 1720 Collapse





https://www.chicagofed.org/publications/working-papers/2003/2003-31



## Waare afbeelding van den vermaarden Heer QUINQUENPOIX. Kom uit, kom uit: het rogent nu dukaten. Riep elk, op markt en straten. Komt man en soof, komt raardig klein en groot: Som was den vermaarden Heer QUINQUENPOIX. Zyn knaap zal voorts dubbloenen distileren, Die in papier verkeren Van MISSISIP, en bobbels klein en groot-,

Houd op we hoedt en schoot . Die galm sloeg wort, met duizent dertelheden . In ryken , landen , steden .

Diogenes verscheen op dit getier , En vroeg : wat volk is hier ?

'k Zoek mensichen maar toen zag hy een vertoning

Als van een 's vorsten kroning:

Heer QUINQUENPOIX in volle majesteit;

Daar zotheit hem bereit

Een trotse kroon van ydle paauwereren , Met distels t'zyner ceren .

Zyn Wapenschilt, gewoert door Horaardy, Toont sierlyk aan zyn zy

Noe Ikarus , in 't rliegen onervaren , Stort plotslyk in de baren .

De raaf en uil vertonen recht om hoog Zyn spreuk voor yders oog .



Van MISSISIP, en bobbels klein en groot, Die weder, door de poot

Van 't duivelije , tot nieuwe vlam verstrekken Voor grote en kleine gekken .

De Satir cerst zo bly van aart-Nockt, schorpion, uw staart:

Maar d'ander, als een zwelgbalg op zyn verken Berooit, zyn klagt laat merken .

De razerny en wanhoop in 't verschiet

D. 1 1 1:1

Betonen haar vendriet,

Nu zy haar hoop en geldt en beste panden Als 't droge strooi zien branden ,

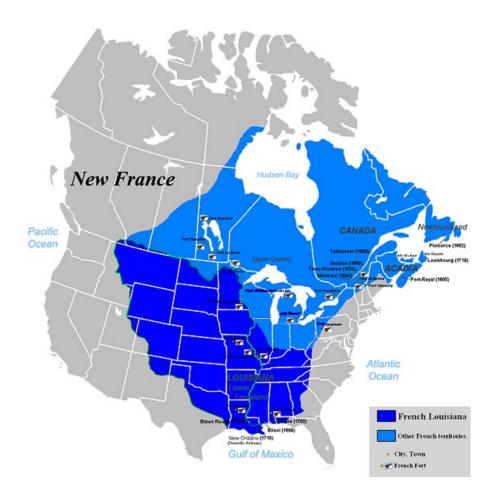
Waar door de pan en rooster aan den want-Nu ledig staan geplant-.

Doch d'ezel bulkt-, nu zo veel wyze hoofden 't Geral te veel geloofden .

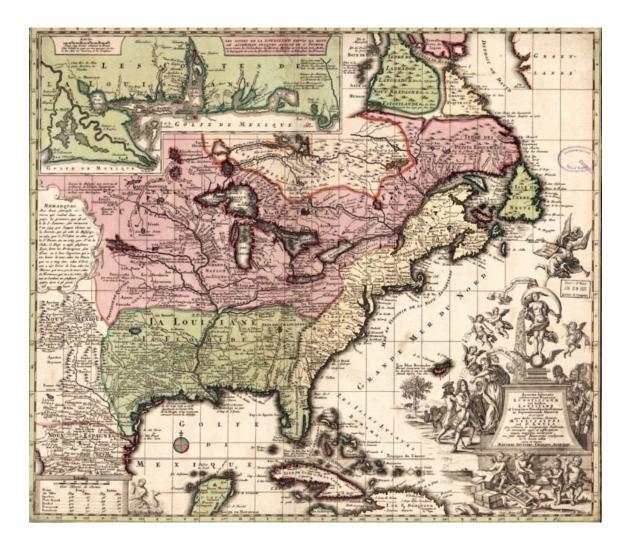
De Filosoof toen by 't bekeken hadt,

Kroop , lachend , in zyn wadt . \*



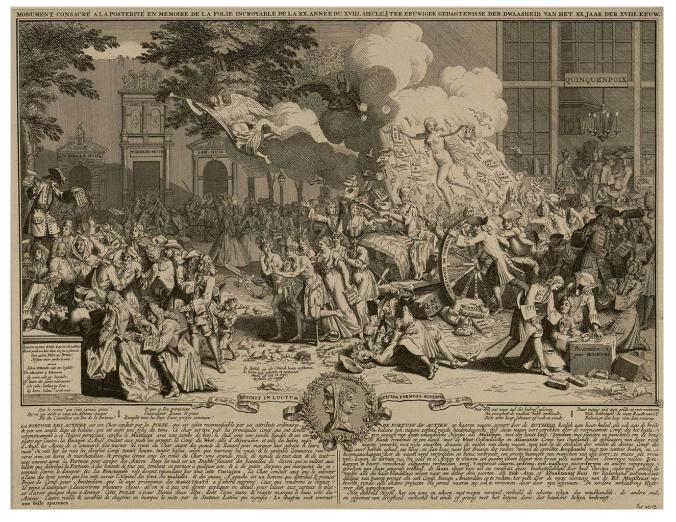






Matthaeus Seutter, Accurata delineatio celeberrimæ regionis Ludovicianæ vel Gallice Louisiane ot. Canadæ et Floridæ adpellatione in Septemtrionali America descriptæ quæ hodie nomine fluminis Mississippi vel St. Louis, 1734.





https://www.nfb.ca/film/john\_law\_and\_the\_mississippi\_bubble





#### https://www.nfb.ca/film/john law and the mississippi bubble/

In this animated short, Richard Condie offers up a history lesson about one of the most sensational get-rich-quick schemes that took place in France over 200 years ago. With economist John Law at the helm, the plan was to open a bank and exchange bank notes for gold at wildly inflated share prices to mask the fact that the country's gold had been depleted in the building of Louis XIV's palace. When the inevitable rush to cash in the notes takes place, poor John Law is left broke and broken-hearted.



## Tulip Mania in Holland 1633-1637





#### MEMOIRS

OF EXTRAORDINARY

#### POPULAR DELUSIONS.

#### BY CHARLES MACKAY.

author of "the thames and its tributaries," "the hope of the world," etc.

"Il est bon de connaître les délires de l'esprit humain. Chaque peuple a ses folies plus ou moins grossières." Millot.

VOL. I.

#### LONDON:

RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1841.

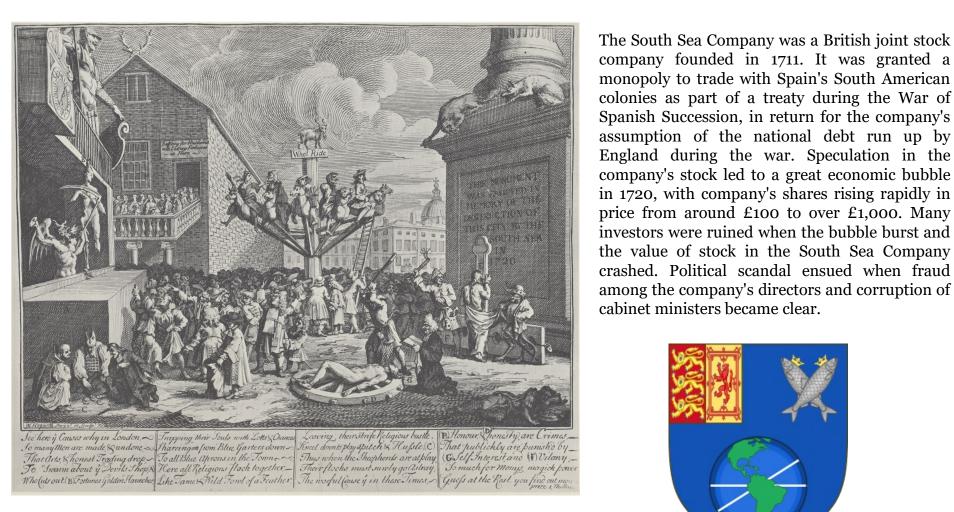
#### THE TULIPOMANIA.

Quis furor ô cives !-- LUCAN.

THE tulip,-so named, it is said, from a Turkish word, signifying a turban,-was introduced into western Europe about the middle of the sixteenth century. Conrad Gesner, who claims the merit of having brought it into repute,-little dreaming of the extraordinary commotion it was to make in the world,-says that he first saw it in the year 1559, in a garden at Augsburg, belonging to the learned Counsellor Herwart, a man very famous in his day for his collection of rare exotics. The bulbs were sent to this gentleman by a friend at Constantinople, where the flower had long been a favourite. In the course of ten or eleven years after this period, tulips were much sought after by the wealthy, especially in Holland and Germany. Rich people at Amsterdam sent for the bulbs direct to Constantinople, and paid the most extravagant prices for them. The first roots planted in England were brought from Vienna in 1600. Until



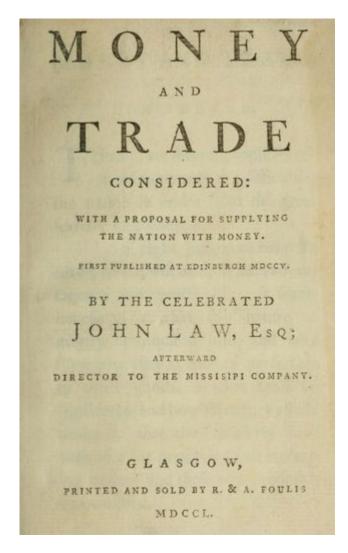
## South Sea Bubble 1720



investors were ruined when the bubble burst and the value of stock in the South Sea Company crashed. Political scandal ensued when fraud among the company's directors and corruption of cabinet ministers became clear.

Emblematical Print on the South Sea Scheme, William Hogarth 1721





#### MONEY AND TRADE

CONSIDERED.

THERE are several proposals offer'd to remedy the difficulties the nation is under from the great searcity of money.

That a right judgment may be made, which will be most safe, advantageous and practicable; it seems necessary, 1. that the nature of money be inquired into, and why silver was used as money preserable to other goods. 2. that trade be considered, and how far money affects trade. 3. that the measures have been used for preserving and increasing money, and these now proposed, be examined.

#### 4 . MONEY AND TRADE

CHAP. I.

How goods are valued. of barter. of filver; its value as a metal; its qualities fitting it for money; and of the additional value it received from being used as money.

Goods have a value from the uses they are applyed to; and their value is greater or lesser, not so much from their more or less valuable, or necessary uses, as from the greater or lesser quantity of them in proportion to the demand for them. example; water is of great use, yet of little value; because the quantity of water is much greater than the demand for it. diamonds are of little use, yet of great value, because the demand for diamonds is much greater, than the quantity of them.

Goods of the same kind differ in value, from any difference in their

CONSIDERED.

5

quality, one horse is better than another horse. barley of one country is better than barley of another country.

Goods change their value, from any change in their quantity, or in the demand for them. if oats be in greater quantity than last year, and the demand the same, or lesser, oats will be less valuable.

Mr. Locke fays, the value of goods is according to their quantity in proportion to their vent. the vent of goods cannot be greater than the quantity, but the demand may be greater: if the quantity of wine brought from France be a 100 ton, and the demand be for 500 ton, the demand is greater than the vent; and the 100 ton will fell at a higher price,

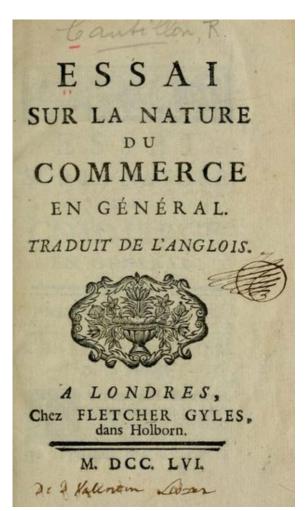


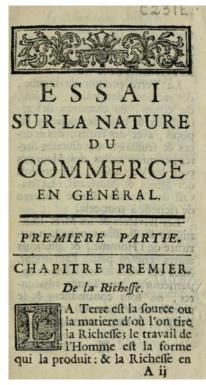


Portrait of Woman in Source (Madame Richard Cantillon, née Mary Anne O' Mahony)

Painting by Nicolas de Largillière (1656-1746) 18th century Tours, Musée des Beaux Arts)







Essai sur la nature elle-même, n'est autre chose que la nourriture, les commodités & les agrémens de la vie.

#### CHAPITRE VII.

Le travail d'un Laboureur vaut moins que celui d'un Artisan.

E Fils d'un Laboureur, à l'âge de sept ou douze ans, commence à aider son Pere, soit à garder les troupeaux, soit à remuer la terre, soit à d'autres ouvrages de la Campagne, qui ne demandent point d'art ni d'habileté.

Si fon Pere lui faisoit apprendre un métier, il perdroit à son absence pendant tout le tems de son apprentissage, & seroit encore obligé de païer son entretien & les frais de son apprentissage pendant plusieurs années: voilà donc un Fils à charge à son Pere, & dont le travail ne rap-

#### CHAPITRE IX.

Le nombre de Laboureurs, Artifans & autres, qui travaillent dans un Etat, se proportionne naturellement au besoin qu'on en a.



ESSAY

ON THE NATURE

OF

TRADE IN GENERAL

PART ONE

CHAPTER I

Of Wealth

The Land is the Source or Matter from whence all Wealth is produced. The Labour of man is the Form which produces it: and Wealth in itself is nothing but the Maintenance, Conveniencies, and Superfluities of Life.

Land produces Herbage, Roots, Corn, Flax, Cotton, Hemp, Shrubs and Timber of several kinds, with divers sorts of Fruits, Bark, and Foliage like that of the Mulberry-tree for Silkworms; it supplies Mines and Minerals. To all this the Labour of man gives the form of Wealth.

Rivers and Seas supply Fish for the food of man, and many other things for his enjoyment. But these Seas and Rivers belong to the adjacent Lands or are common to all, and the Labour of man extracts from them the Fish and other advantages.

#### CHAPTER VII

The Labour of the Husbandman is of less Value than that of the Handicrafts-Man

A Labourer's Son at seven or twelve years of age begins to help his Father either in keeping the Flocks, digging the ground, or in other sorts of Country Labour which require no Art or Skill.

If his Father puts him to a Trade he loses his Assistance during the Time of his Apprenticeship and is necessitated to cloath him and to pay the expenses of his Apprenticeship for some years. The Son is thus an expense to his Father and his Labour brings in no advantage till the end of some years. The [working] Life of a Man is estimated but at 10 or 12 years, and as several are lost in learning a Trade most of which in England require 7 years of

#### CHAPTER IX

The Number of Labourers, Handicraftsmen and others, who work in a State is naturally proportioned to the Demand for them

If all the Labourers in a Village breed up several Sons to the same work there will be too many Labourers to cultivate the Lands belonging to the Village, and the surplus Adults must go to seek a livelihood elsewhere, which they generally do in Cities: if some remain with their Fathers, as they will not all find sufficient employment they will live in great poverty and will not marry for lack of means to bring up children, or if they marry, the children who come will soon die of starvation with their Parents, as we see every day in France.



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#### CHAPTER X

The Price and Intrinsic Value of a Thing in general is the measure of the Land and Labour which enter into its Production

One Acre of Land produces more Corn or feeds more Sheep than another. The work of one man is dearer than that of another, as I have already explained, according to the superior Skill and Occurrences of the Times. If two Acres of Land are of equal goodness, one will feed as many Sheep and produce as much Wool as the other, supposing the Labour to be the same, and the Wool produced by one Acre will sell at the same Price as that produced by the other.



#### CHAPITRE X.

Le prix & valeur intrinseque d'une chose en général est la mesure de la terre & du travail qui entre dans sa production.

#### CHAPITRE XI.

Du pair ou rapport de la valeur de la Terre à la valeur du travail.

Essai sur la nature il semble que pour conserver un de deux Enfans qu'on élève jusqu'à l'âge de virilité ou du travail, il faut emploier autant de produit de Terre que pour la subsistance d'un Esclave adulte, soit que le Propriétaire élève luimême dans fa maifon ou y faffe élever ces Enfans, soit que le Pere esclave les élève dans une Maison ou Hameau à part. Ainsi je conclus que le travail journalier du plus vil Esclave, correspond en valeur au double du produit de Terre dont il subsiste, soit que le Propriétaire le lui donne pour sa propre subsistance & celle de sa Famille; soit qu'il le fasse subsister avec fa Famille dans fa Maifon.

#### CHAPITRE XIL

Tous les Ordres & tous les Hommes d'un Etat subsistent ou s'enrichissent aux dépens des Propriétaires des Terres.

#### CHAPITRE XIII.

La circulation & le troc des denrées & des marchandises, de même que leur production, se conduisent en Europe par des Entrepreneurs, & au hazard.

#### CHAPITRE II.

Des prix des Marchés.

La supposition donc que je suivrai dans cette recherche de la circulation de l'argent sera que les Fermiers sont trois rentes, & même qu'ils dépensent la troisième rente pour vivre plus commodément, au lieu de l'épargner. C'est en esset le cas du



#### CHAPTER XI

#### Of the Par or Relation between the Value of Land and Labour

It does not appear that Providence has given the Right of the Possession of Land to one Man preferably to another: the most ancient Titles are founded on Violence and Conquest. The Lands of Mexico now belong to the Spaniards and those at Jerusalem to the Turks. But howsoever people come to the property and possession of Land we have already observed that it always falls into the hands of a few in proportion to the total inhabitants.

If the Proprietor employ the Labour of Vassals or free Peasants he will probably maintain them upon a better foot than Slaves according to the custom of the place he lives in, yet in this case also the Labour of a free Labourer ought to correspond in value to double the produce of Land needed for his maintenance. But it will always be more profitable to the Proprietor to keep Slaves than to keep free Peasants, because when he has brought up a number too large for his requirements he can sell the surplus Slaves as he does his cattle and obtain for them a price proportionable to what he has spent in rearing them to manhood or working age, except in cases of old age or infirmity.

In the same way one may appraise the Labour of slave craftsmen at twice the produce of the Land which they consume. Overseers likewise, allowing for the favours and privileges given to them above those who work under them.

#### CHAPTER XII

All Classes and Individuals in a State subsist or are enriched at the Expense of the Proprietors of Land

There are none but the Prince and the Proprietors of Land who live independent; all other Classes and Inhabitants are hired or are Undertakers. The proof and detail of this will be developed in the next Chapter.

#### CHAPTER XIII

The circulation and exchange of goods and merchandise as well as their production are carried on in Europe by Undertakers, and at a risk

The Farmer is an undertaker who promises to pay to the Landowner, for his Farm or Land, a fixed sum of money

By all these inductions and many others which might be made in a topic relating to all the Inhabitants of a State, it may be laid down that except the Prince and the Proprietors of Land, all the Inhabitants of a State are dependent; that they can be divided into two classes, Undertakers and Hired people; and that all the Undertakers are as it were on unfixed wages and the others on wages fixed so long as they receive them though their functions and ranks may be very unequal. The General who has his pay, the Courtier his pension and the Domestic servant who has wages all fall into this last class. All the rest are Undertakers, whether they set up with a capital to conduct their enterprise, or are Undertakers of their own labour without capital, and they may be regarded as living at uncertainty; the Beggars even and the Robbers are Undertakers of this class. Finally all the Inhabitants of a State derive their living and their advantages from the property of the Landowners and are dependent.



PART TWO

CHAPTER I

Of Barter

CHAPTER II

Of Market Prices

Suppose the Butchers on one side and the Buyers on the other. The price of Meat will be settled after some altercations, and a pound of Beef will be in value to a piece

158] ESSAY ON THE NATURE OF TRADE 119 of silver pretty nearly as the whole Beef offered for sale in the Market is to all the silver brought there to buy Beef.

This proportion is come at by bargaining. The Butcher keeps up his Price according to the number of Buyers he sees; the Buyers, on their side, offer less according as they think the Butcher will have less sale: the Price set by some is usually followed by others. Some are more clever in puffing up their wares, other in running them down. Though this method of fixing Market prices has no exact or geometrical foundation, since it often depends upon the eagerness or easy temperament of a few Buyers or Sellers, it does not seem that it could be done in any more convenient way. It is clear that the quantity of Produce or of Merchandise offered for sale, in proportion to the demand or number of Buyers, is the basis on which is fixed or always supposed to be fixed the actual Market Prices; and that in general these prices do not vary much from the intrinsic value.

#### PART THREE

#### CHAPTER IV

Of the variations in the proportion of values with regard to the Metals which serve as Money

If Metals were as easily found as water commonly is everybody would take what he wanted of them and they would have hardly any value. The Metals which are most plentiful and cost the least trouble to produce are also the cheapest. Iron seems the most necessary, but as it is commonly found in Europe with less trouble and labour than copper it is much cheaper.

Copper, Silver, and Gold are the three metals in general use for money. Copper mines are the most abundant and cost less in Land and Labour to work. The

#### CHAPTER V

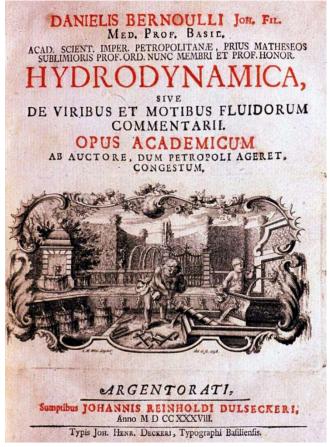
Of the augmentation and diminution of coin in denomination

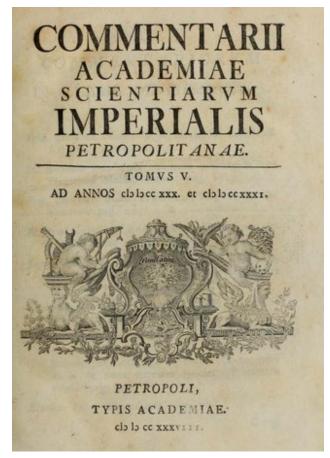
According to the principles we have established the quantity of money circulating in exchange fixes and determines the price of everything in a State taking into account the rapidity or sluggishness of circulation.



## Daniel Bernoulli (1700-1782)

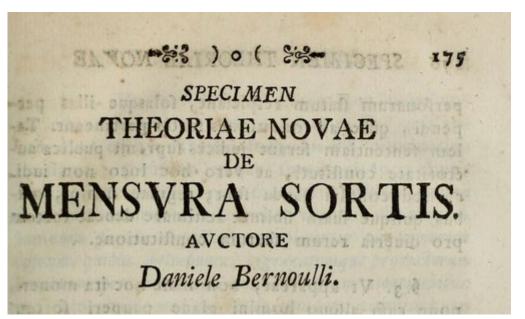


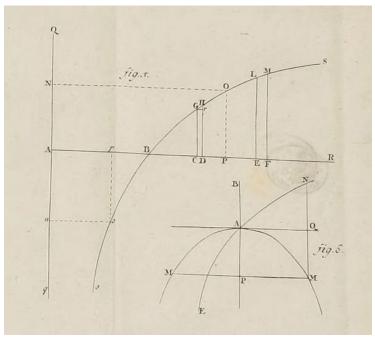






## Daniel Bernoulli (1700-1782)





### St. Petersbourg's paradox

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k}{2^k} = 1 + 1 + \dots + 1 + \dots = \infty$$



# Physiocracy

L'ANTROPOPHAGIE,

OU LES

ANTROPOPHAGES.



A AMSTERDAM,



Price of grain controlled by the authorities. Prohibition of export

Tax collection by fermiers généraux

Taxes
Tax exemption
Need to pay for:
Wars

Versailles Subsidies to industry

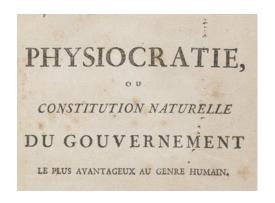
Cost of production: high





# Physiocracy





Physiocrats < φύσις (nature) + κράτος (rule)

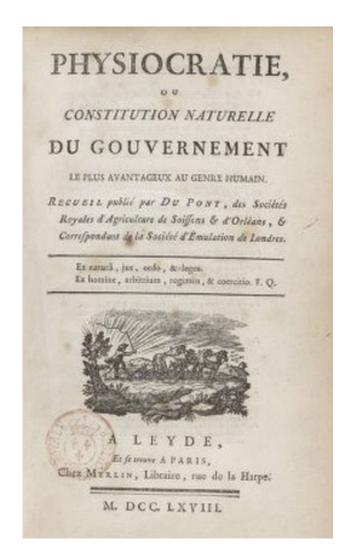
Les économistes

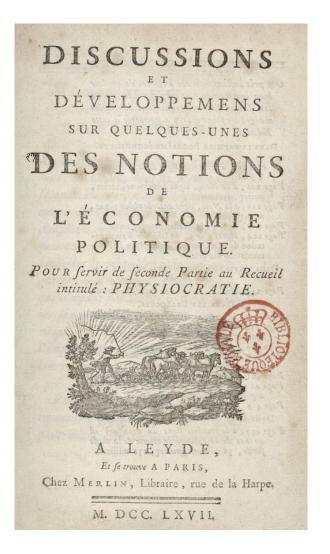
Emphasis on agriculture

Tableau économique Produit net Impôt unique

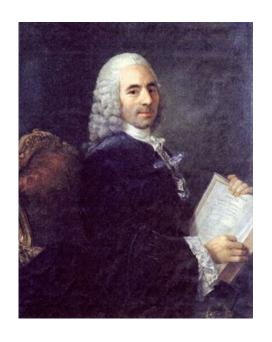


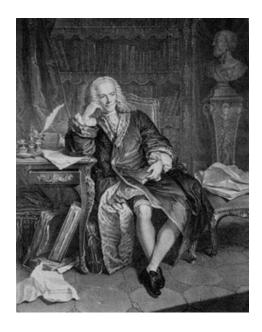
# Physiocracy



















Madame de Pompadour (1721-1764)



Louis XV (1710-1774)



#### TRAITÉ

DES EFFETS

E T

#### DE L'USAGE DE LA SAIGNÉE.

Par M. QUESNAY, Médecin Confultant du Roy.

Nouvelle Edition de deux Traités de l'Auteur fur la Saignée, réunis, mis dans un nouvel ordre, & très-augmentés.



#### A PARIS,

Chez D'HOURY pere, Imprimeur-Libraire de Monseigneur le Duc d'Orleans, rue de la vieille Bouclerie.

M. D. CC. L.
AVEC APPROBATION ET PRIVILEGE DU ROT.

#### ESSAI

PHISIQUE sur

#### LOECONOMIE

#### ANIMALE

Par FRANÇOIS QUESNAY,
Maitre ès Arts, Chirurgien reçu à S. Côme,
Membre de la Societé Academique des Arts,
& de l'Academie des Sciences & Belles Lettres de Lyon; Chirurgien de MonselGNEURLBDUC DE VILLEROY.



#### A PARIS.

Chez Guillaume Cavelier, pres fa Fontaine faint Severin au Lys d'or.

M. D.C. C. XXXVI.

Avec Approbations & Privilege du Rei.

# TRAITÉ

DELA

#### SUPPURATION:

Par M. QUESNAY, Ecuyer, Membre de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, de la Societé
Royale de Londres, &c. Medecin Consultant du Roi, & premier Medecin ordinaire de SA MAJESTE en survivance.



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M DCC. LXIV.

APEC APPROPATION ET PRIVILEGE PURGT



#### ENCYCLOPEDIE,

O U

DES SCIENCES,

DES ARTS ET DES MÉTIERS,

PAR UNE SOCIETE DE GENS DE LETTRES.

Mis en ordre & publié par M. DIDEROT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences & des Belles-Lettres de Pruffe; & quant à la Partie Mathématique, par M. D'ALEMBERT, de l'Académie Françoife, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Paris, de celle de Pruffe, de la Société Royale de Londres, de l'Académie Royale des Belles-Lettres de Suede, & de l'Inftitut de Bologne.

Tantùm series juncturaque pollet,
Tantùm de medio sumptis accedit honoris! HORAT.

TOME SIXIEME.



A PARIS.

Chez

B R I A S S O N, rue Saint Jacques, à la Science.

D A V I D l'alné, rue & vis-à-vis la Grille des Mathurins.

L B R E T O N, Imprimeur ordinaire du Roy, rue de la Harpe.

D U R A N D, rue du Foir, vis-à-vis la petite Porte des Mathurins.

M. D C C. LVI.

AVEC APPROBATION ET PRIVILEGE DU ROY.

ÉVIDENCE, s. f. (Métaphysiq.) le terme évidence fignisse une certitude si claire & si maniseste par ellemême, que l'esprit ne peut s'y resuser.

Il y a deux fortes de certitude; la foi, & l'évi-

dence.

La foi nous apprend des vérités qui ne peuvent être connues par les lumieres de la raison. L'évidence est bornée aux connoissances naturelles.

FERMIERS, (Econ. polit.) font ceux qui afferment & font valoir les biens des campagnes, & qui pro-

GRAINS, (Economie polit.) Les principaux objets du Commerce en France, sont les grains, les vins & eaux-de-vie, le sel, les chanvres & les lins, les laines, & les autres produits que sournissent les bestiaux : les manufactures des toiles & des étosses communes peuvent augmenter beaucoup la valeur des chanvres, des lins, & des laines, & procurer la sub-sistance à beaucoup d'hommes qui seroient occupés

1908]

SCHELLE : IMPÔTS PAR QUESNAY.

[141

rce

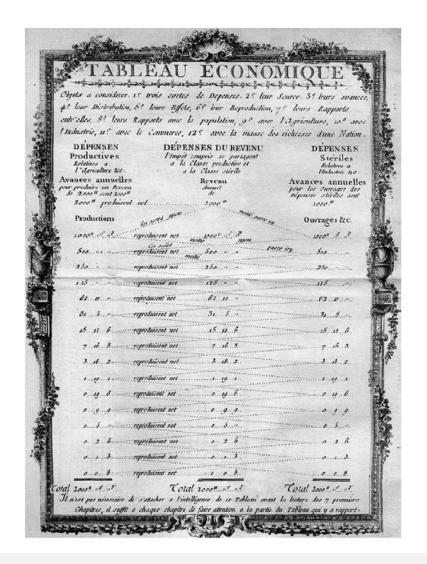
IMPOTS (ÉCONOMIE POLITIQUE) (1).

Les droits ou impôts que les sujets (payent) au souverain pour les dépenses du Gouvernement, s'établissent sur les richesses annuelles d'une nation. Ces richesses peuvent se réduire à quatre classes :





Tableau Oeconomique 1758





#### TABLEAU ÉCONOMIQUE<sup>1</sup>

Objects to be considered: (1) three kinds of expenditure; (2) their source; (3) their advances; (4) their distribution; (5) their effects; (6) their reproduction; (7) their relations with one another; (8) their relations with the population; (9) with agriculture; (10) with industry; (11) with trade; (12) with the total wealth of a nation.

EXPENDITURE relative to after	EXPENDITURE OF THE REVENUE deduction of taxes, is divid ween productive expenditur and sterile expenditure Annual	
required to produce a revenue of 600' are 600'	revenue	for the works of sterile expenditure are
Products 9/9/4 sa06 1/8	u-auo 600 one-half g	300′
Products 9399		vorks, etc.
300 reproduce net one ha	300' yeq-ə	uo 300′
one-hal	f, etc. 150 -519, list-edo	150
75 reproduce net	/5	/5
37103 reproduce net	37 · 10 	3710
1815 reproduce net	1815	1815
976 <sup>d</sup> reproduce no	et976 <sup>d</sup>	976 <sup>d</sup>
4139 reproduce ne	at9	4139
2610 reproduce ne	t2610	976 <sup>d</sup> 4139 2610 135
1 3 5 reproduce ne	t135	135
0118 reproduce ne	t0118	0118
0 5 10 reproduce ne	t 0 5 10	0118 0510
0 ··· 2 · 11 reproduce ne	t0 2 11	0510
0·····1·····5 reproduce ne	ot5	01
etc.		

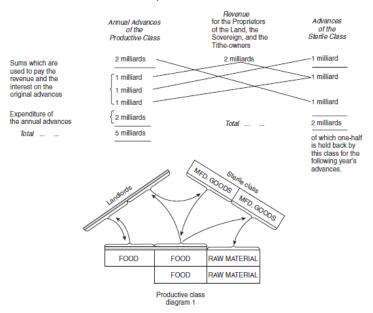
TOTAL REPRODUCED......600' of revenue; in addition, the annual costs of 600' and the interest on the original advances of the husbandman amounting to 300', which the land restores. Thus the reproduction is 1500', including the revenue of 600' which forms the base of the calculation, abstraction being made of the taxes deducted and of the advances which their annual reproduction entails, etc.

Figure 7.1 Quesnay's Tableau économique

Source: Quesnay's tableau économique, edited by M. Kuczynski and R.L. Meek, Macmillan (now Palgrave Macmillan), London, 1972.

	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Landlords	GDP
Agriculture	2	2	1	5
Manufacturing	1		1	2
Landlords	2			2
Gross National Income	5	2	2	9

#### Total Reproduction: Five milliards



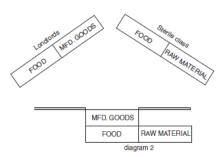


Figure 7.2 Formula of the Tableau économique Sources: R.L. Meek, The Economics of Physiocracy, Allen & Unwin, London, 1962, p.158; Paul Sweezy, Theory of Capitalist Development, Dennis Dobson, London, 1949, pp. 366–7 (this is, in fact, an appendix prepared for Sweezy by Shigeto Tsuru).

### Karl Marx's Simple Reproduction Schema

$$C_{1} = c_{1} + v_{1} + s_{1}$$

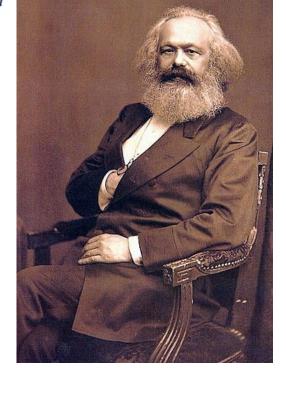
$$C_{2} = c_{2} + v_{2} + s_{2}$$

$$C_{1} = c_{1} + c_{2}$$

$$C_{2} = v_{1} + v_{2} + s_{1} + s_{2}$$

Table 2.1 Marx's simple reproduction schema

	$C_i$	$V_{i}$	$S_{i}$	$W_{i}$	
Dept. 1	4,000	1,000	1,000	6,000	
Dept. 2	2,000	500	500	3,000	
•	6,000	1,500	1,500	9,000	





#### I. Einfache Reproduktion.

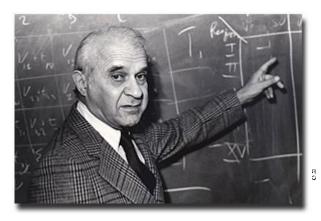
Betrachten wir also zunächst den zwischen den Extremen  $P \dots P$ in der Cirkulationssphäre verlaufenden Process W' - G' - W.

Der Ausgangspunkt dieser Cirkulation ist das Waarenkapital:

W' = W + w = P + w. Die Funktion des Waarenkapitals W' - G'
(die Realisirung des in ihm enthaltenen Kapitalwerths = P, der jetzt
als Waarenbestandtheil W existirt, wie des in ihm enthaltenen Mehrwerths,
der als Bestandtheil derselben Waarenmasse, mit dem Werth w, existirt)
wurde in der ersten Form des Kreislaufs betrachtet. Aber dort bildete
sie die zweite Phase der unterbrochnen Cirkulation und die Abschlussphase
des ganzen Kreislaufs. Hier bildet sie die zweite Phase des Kreislaufs,
aber die erste Phase der Cirkulation. Der erste Kreislauf endet mit G',
und da G' ebensowohl wie das ursprüngliche G von neuem als Geldkapital den zweiten Kreislauf eröffnen kann, war es zunächst nicht nöthig
weiter zuzusehn, ob die in G' enthaltnen G und g (der Mehrwerth) ihre
Bahn mit einander fortsetzen, oder ob sie verschiedne Bahnen beschreiben.
Dies wäre nur nöthig geworden, hätten wir den ersten Kreislauf in seiner
Erneurung weiter verfolgt. Dieser Punkt muss aber im Kreislauf des pro-



### Wassily Leontief (1906–1999)



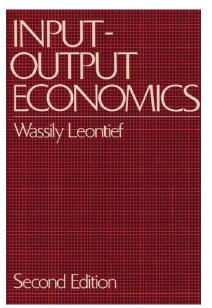


Table 3-2 Input-output table of the U.S. economy for the year 1958 reduced to 8 from 57 producing sectors<sup>a</sup>

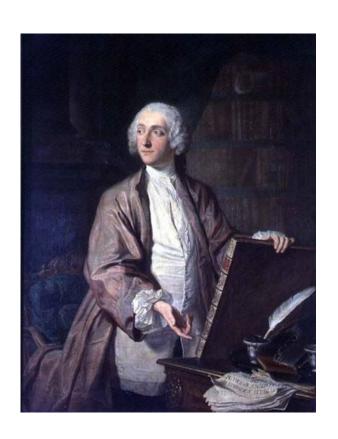
Column row	Industry	Food and Drugs (1)	House- wares (2)	Machinery (3)	Trans. Equip. & Consum. Appl. (4)	Construction (5)	Metals (6)	Energy (7)	Chemicals (8)	Final Demand	Gross Domestic Output
1	Food and drugs	15,202	547	161	353	513	165	218	386	58,728	76,272
	0	(12,468)	(96)	(11)	(49)	(17)	(53)	(62)	(288)	(55,320)	
2	Textiles, clothing, and	347	12,815	92	821	761	171	63	61	21,369	36,500
	furnishings	(155)	(12,692)	(37)	(636)	(524)	(47)	(8)	(38)	(20,033)	
3	Machinery	430	215	2,321	2,061	1,397	819	406	200	13,385	21,233
		(28)	(105)	(2,186)	(1,644)	(748)	(545)	(141)	(150)	(11,293)	
4	Transportation equipment	363	158	816	11,791	1,372	485	183	53	38,691	53,912
	and consumer appliances	(29)	(55)	(691)	(11,196)	(753)	(101)	(29)	(5)	(32,670)	
5	Construction	1,158	218	115	308	48	284	1,541	70	65,117	69,291
		(235)	(18)	(26)	(109)	(8)	(131)	(579)	(6)	(56,836)	
6	Metals	1,033	475	3,073	6,038	6,468	7,959	388	479	2,244	28,158
		(46)	(277)	(2,631)	(4,618)	(3,650)	(7,335)	(110)	(389)	(-45)	
7	Energy	2,158	652	371	805	2,774	1,704	6,888	1,127	23,851	40,330
		(783)	(293)	(226)	(404)	(1,536)	(1,391)	(6,236)	(1,007)	(17,702)	
8	Chemicals	1,956	1,030	201	475	1,218	459	713	2,500	3,218	11,770
		(1,056)	(218)	(117)	(115)	(437)	(283)	(576)	(2,351)	(1,510)	
	Value added	53,625	20,390	14,083	31,260	54,308	16,112	29,930	6,894	178,912	405,515
		(22, 252)	(12,844)	(10,254)	(20,677)	(28,937)	(10,509)	(15,127)	(4,674)		
Total		76,272	36,500	21,233	53,912	69,291	28,158	40,330	11,770	405,515	
	Labor	8,182	3,929	1,820	3,891	8,581	1,867	1,755	671	26,430	57,146
		(2,202)	(2,808)	(1,307)	(2,467)	(4,847)	(1,155)	(1,003)	(403)		

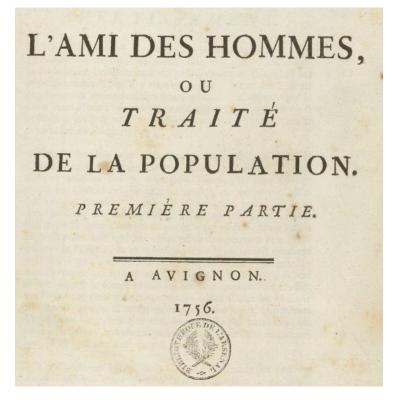
Derived from the 83-sector table published in "Transaction Table of the 1958 Input-Output Study and Revised Direct Requirements Data," Survey of Current Business 45 (9), September 1969. Each of the 8 sectors of the intermediate 57-sector table retained in this reduced table represents an aggregate of the following industries identified by the numbers they carry in the original 83-sector table:

(1) Food and drugs: 14, 15, 29; (2) textiles, clothing, furnishings: 16, 17, 18, 19, 34, 22, 23; (3) machinery (only final): 51, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 63; (4) transportation equipment and consumer appliances: 52, 54, 56, 59, 60, 61, 62; (5) construction: 11, 12; (6) metals: 37, 38; (7) energy: 31, 68; (8) chemicals: 27. Corresponding entries in the unreduced 57-sector table appear in parentheses. The units are man-years in the labor row and millions of dollars in all other rows.



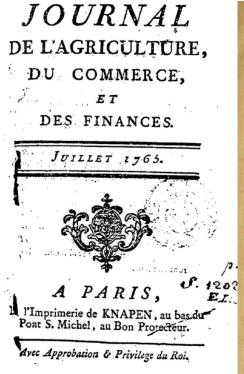
## Victor de Riqueti, Marquis de Mirabeau (1715-1789)

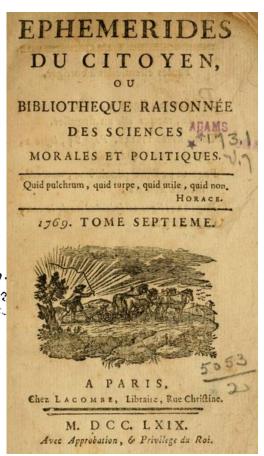






#### Pierre Samuel DuPont de Nemours (1739-1817)





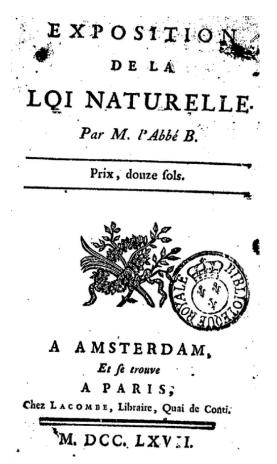


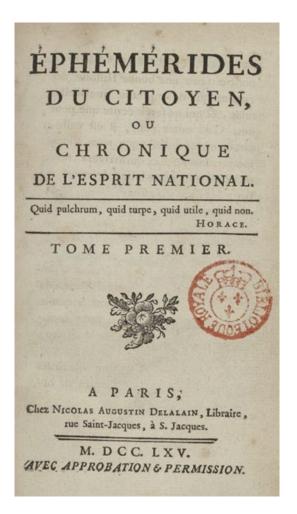
Pierre-Samuel du Pont, engraving by L.-J. Cathelin, after a portrait by J. Ducreux



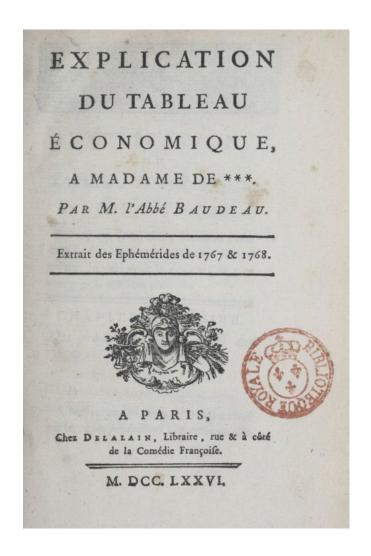
#### Abbé Nicolas Baudeau (1730-1792)

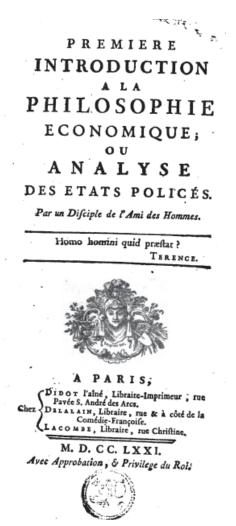






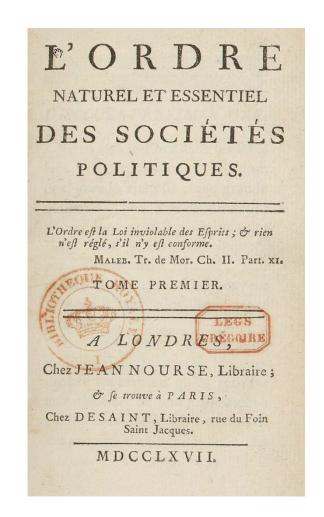
#### Abbé Nicolas Baudeau (1730-1792)







## Paul Pierre le Mercier de la Rivière (1720-1794)



#### L'INTÉRÊT GÉNÉRAL DE L'ÉTAT,

OULALIBERTÉ

#### DU COMMERCE DES BLÉS,

Démontrée conforme au Droit naturel; au Droit public de la France; aux Loix fondamentales du Royaume; à l'intérêt commun du Souverain & de ses Sujets dans tous les temps:

#### AVEC

La RÉFUTATION d'un nouveau Système, publié en forme de DIALOGUES, fur le Commerce des Blés.

Communis utilitas Societatis maximum est vinculum.

T. Liv. Dec. 4. L. 6.
L'intérêt commun est l'unique lien des Sociétés politiques.



#### A AMSTERDAM;

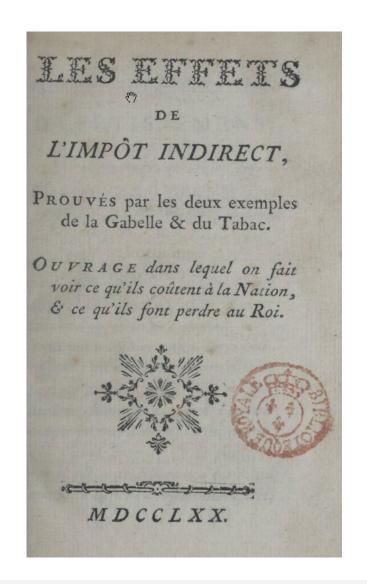
Et se trouve A PARIS,

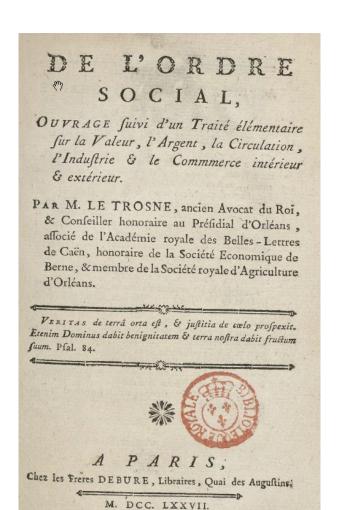
Chez DESAINT, Libraire, rue du Foin.

M. DCC. LXX.



### Guillaume François Le Trosne (1728-1780)





Avec Approbation & Privilége du Roi.

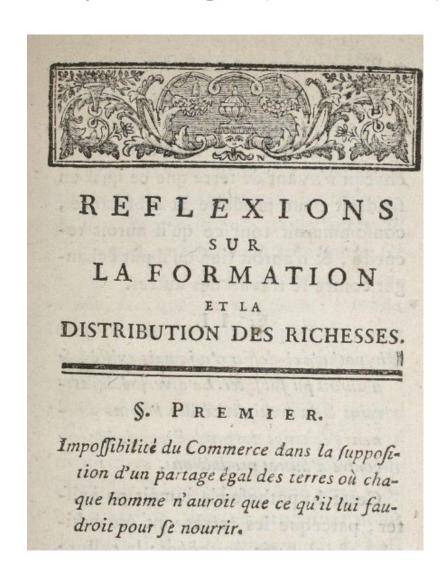


### Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot (1727-1781)



- « Étymologie »,
- « Existence »,
- « Expansibilité »,
- « Foire »,
- « Fondation »,

Encyclopédie 1757





### Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot (1727-1781)



#### S. LVIII.

Tout capital en argent, ou toute somme de valeur quelconque, est l'équivalent d'une terre produisant un revenu égal à une portion déterminée de cette somme. Premier emploi des capitaux. Achât d'un fond de terre.

### Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot (1727-1781)

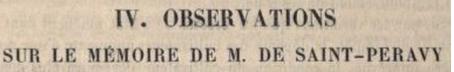
[79]

102. - Valeurs et monnaies

(Projet d'article, 1769)

(Les mesures. - Les diverses espèces de monnaie. La valeur : pour l'homme isolé; dans l'échange.)

La monnaie a cela de commun avec toutes les espèces de mesures, qu'elle est une sorte de langage qui diffère, chez les différents peuples, en tout ce qui est arbitraire et de convention, mais qui se rapproche et s'identifie, à quelques égards, par ses rapports, à un terme ou étalon commun.



EN FAVEUR DE L'IMPÔT INDIRECT,

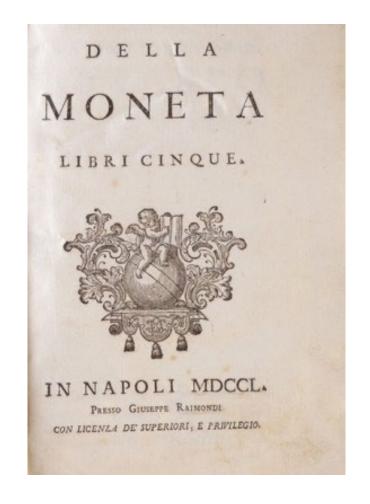
COURONNÉ PAR LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE D'AGRICULTURE DE LIMOGES.



1767









Aristotele, uomo per altro d'ingegno grandissimo e maraviglioso, nel lib. 5 de' Costunii al c. 7, ove ha molte belle considerazioni esposte, intorno alla natura della moneta ha pensato così: Ex convento successit nummus, atque ob hanc causam nomisma vocatur (a Græcis) 'nempe a lege, quia non natura sed lege valeat, sitque in nostra potestate eum immutare inutilemque reddere; e nelle Opere

Politiche al lib. 1 c. 6 lo stesso ripete. Or se ne' suoi insegnamenti è stato questo filosofo oltre il dovere con nostro danno seguitato, in niuno più che in questo lo è stato.

tire nè la debolezza di questo nè il vacillamento di quello. Perciò io prima d'ogni altro con ogni mio studio m'ingegnerò dimostrare quello onde vivo da gran tempo persuaso, che non solo i metalli componenti la moneta ma ogni altra cosa al mondo, niuna eccettuandone, ha il suo naturale valore da principi certi, generali e costanti derivato; che nè il capriccio, nè la legge, nè il principe e nè altra cosa può far violenza a questi principi e al loro effetto; e in fine che nella stima gli uomini, come gli Scolastici dicono, passive se habent. Sopra queste basi



Sentiments of Aristotle. an intrinsic, certain, and natural value. 4-1
Aristotle, a great genius and a man of wonder, has
laid bare many fine considerations concerning the nature
of money as, for example, in Customs, Chapter Seven,
Book Five where he has written as follows:

τὸ νόμισα γέγονε κατὰ συνθήκην, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο τούνομα ἔχει νόμισμα, ὅτι οὐ φύσει, ἀλλὰ νομῷ ἐστὶ, καὶ ἐφ ἡμῖν μεταβάλλειν, καὶ ποιησαι ἄχρησον: \*-2 εχ convento successit nummus, atque ob hanc causam νόμισμα vocabitur (a Graecis) nempe a leģe, quia non natura, sed lege valeat, sitque in nostra potestate eum immutare, inutilemque reddere. \*-3

This is repeated in Chapter Six, Book One of Politics. If this philosopher has ever been heeded in his teachings more than is appropriate, it would be in this matter, to our detriment. Following his master, Bishop Covarruvias, for example, proceeds in this manner:

Si non natura ipsa, sed a Principe valorem numismata accipiunt, & ab ipso legem revocante inutilia effici possunt, profecto non tanti estimatur materia ipsa auri vel argenti, quantum numus ipse; cum si tanti estimaretur natura ipsa non lege praetium haberet.

Aristotelians, which includes Moralists and Jurisconsults, reason in the same way. It is obvious how correct such conclusions are. Given the truth of such a principle, I should not wish any to have to demonstrate by direct experience just how fatal and productive of grief such considerations can be. These opinions cannot be contradicted without destroying their very basis. Hence, I do not know, or even begin to understand, how it could be possible that such writers as John Locke, Davanzati, 4-5 Broggia, 4-5 the authors respectively of the works Sul commercio 4-7 and of Dello spirito delle leggi, 4-8 among others, could have had contrary sentiments so firmly established on so false a foundation, without ever denying the first principle. They were not aware either of the weakness of the latter or the instability of the former. For this reason I myself, more than all others, have done my utmost to show -- with every study I have made -- what I have

long believed. Namely, that not only the metals comprising money but every other worldly thing, barring none, has its natural value derived from certain, general, and invariant principles; \*-9\* that neither whimsy, law, nor princes, nor anything else can violate these principles and their effects. \*-10\* Finally, concerning value, the Scholastics have said: passive se habent. \*-11\*

Any ediface built on these foundations will be durable and everlasting. I trust my readers will pardon any verbosity here, given the importance of the subject. It would be wrong to consider me responsible for so great a truth, should any be inclined to do so; the responsibility belongs instead to the infinite number of writers who have either failed to understand, or have not wished to demonstrate it.

Definition of value.

PRINCIPLES OF VALUE

The value of things, in general, is defined by many as the esteem which men have for such things. Perhaps, these words do not evoke an idea which is as clear or as distinct as it might be.<sup>2-1</sup> One might say that esteem or value, as conceived by an individual, is an idea of proportion between the possession of one thing and another.<sup>4-12</sup> If we say that ten bushels 1-13 of grain are worth as much as a cask of wine, we are expressing a proportion of equality between possession of one thing and the other. It follows that because men are always most careful not to be defrauded of their own pleasures, one thing exchanges for another, and, consequently, equality involves neither loss nor fraud.

It can be seen from what I have said that the value of things varies as men's ideas and needs vary. Since some things are more generally enjoyed and demanded than others, they have a value which is called current; 4-14 other things have a value only because of the desire of those who wish to have them and those who can provide them.

The ratios which two values include.

Differences

of such a

definition.

in value are

a consequence

Value, then, is a ratio which is, in turn, composed of two other ratios expressed by the names utility and scarcity. 4-15 Allow me to explain my understanding of value with some examples, in order to avoid any confusion over words. Obviously, air and water, which are the most useful things for human life, have no value at all, because they are not scarce. A small bag of sand from the shores of Japan, on the other hand, would be a rare thing, but since it has no particular utility, it would also have no value. 2-2

Some will wonder what great utility one would possibly find in many things which have very high prices. This is a natural and frequently asked question which makes men appear foolish and irrational. It also des-



sero. Perciò si potria dire che la stima o sia il valore « è una idea di proporzione tra il » possesso d'una cosa e quello d'un' altra » nel concetto d'un uomo. » Così quando si dice che dieci staja di grano vagliono quanto una botte di vino, si esprime una proporzione d'egualità fra l'aver l'una cosa o l'altra; ond' è che gli uomini, oculatissimi sempre a non essere de' propri piaceri defraudati, l'una cosa con l'altra cambiano, perchè nella egualità non v'è perdita nè inganno.

Già da questo che ho detto si comprende ch'essendo varie le disposizioni degli animi umani e varj i bisogni, vario è il valor delle cose. Quindi è che altre essendo più generalmente gustate e ricercate hanno un valore che si chiama corrente, ed altre solo dal desiderio di chi le brama avere e di chi le da si valutano.

Il valore adunque è una ragione; e questa composta da due ragioni che con cotesti nomi esprimo d'utilità e rarità. Quel ch' io m'intenda, acciocchè sulle voci non si disputi, l'andrò con esempi dichiarando. Egli è evidente che l'aria e l'acqua, che sono elementi utilissimi all' umana vita, non hanno valore alcuno perchè manca loro la rarità; e per contrario un sacchetto d'arena de' lidi del Giappone rara cosa sarebbe, ma posto che non avesse utilità particolare non avrebbe valore.



Definition of value.

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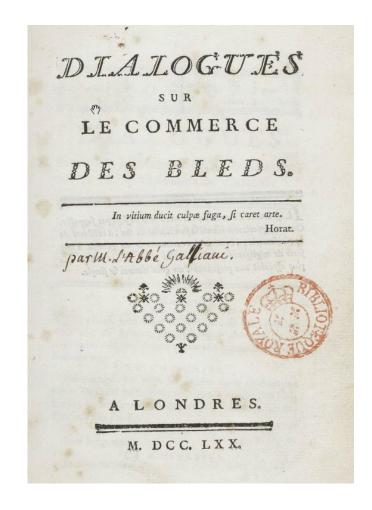
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Differences in value are a consequence of such a definition.

The ratios which two values include.







esperer de parvenir au bonneur.

LE CHEVALIER.

Rien n'est si vrai; rien n'est si faux. Que la Nature en liberté tende à l'équilibre, c'est une vérité lumineuse dans la tête d'un Métaphisicien, (parce que l'homme, lorsqu'il médite, peut devenir presque aussi grand & aussi vaste que la Nature entiere); c'est une vérité, parce qu'on voit les causes & les effets; mais on ne tient pas compte de la durée des époques du retour, on balance les inégalités par des compenfations, & on prend des termes moyens qui n'existent jamais ailleurs que dans la méditation. Mais ce que vous dites est très-faux sous la main d'un Praticien, parce que l'homme, lorsqu'il agit, devient aussi petit, aussi faible qu'un animal de cinq pieds doit être, parce qu'il sent alors le frêle de sa structure, le court espace de sa vie, l'instantanéité de ses besoins, le raboteux des plus petites inégalités, & qu'il ne peut rien compenser, rien rabbattre sans souffrir ou sans mourir. Je veux appliquer ces principes à la théorie des bleds; rien n'est si vrai que les prix des bleds laissés en liberté se mettent en équilibre. Rien n'est si vrai

sur le commerce des Bleds. 237 que le commerce rendu libre répandra du bled par tout où il y aura de l'argent & des confommateurs; rien n'est si vrai en théorie, parce que tous les hommes courent après le gain, ce qui était à démontrer. Mais prenez garde en pratique qu'il faut un temps phyfique à la poste des lettres pour envoyer la nouvelle du défaut de bled d'une ville à un pays qui en a. Il faut un autre espace de temps pour que le bled arrive; & si cet espace de temps est de quinze jours, & que vous n'ayez des provisions que pour une semaine, la ville reste huit jours sans pain, & cet insecte appellé homme n'en a que trop de huit jours de jeûne pour mourir, ce qui n'était pas à faire. Ainsi le théorême va bien, le problême va fort mal. Concluons donc de ne pas laisser à la Nature le soin de nos petites guenilles? Elle est trop grande Dame pour cela-Laissons - lui le soin des grands mouvemens, des grandes révolutions des Empires, des longues époques, comme elle a celui du mouvement des aftres & des élémens. La politique n'est autre chose que la science de prévenir ou de parer les mouvemens inftantanés qui se font par des causes extraordinaires, & elle ne va pas plus loin; car pour les grandes révolutions, elles font tout-à-fait l'ouvrage de la Nature; les forces de l'homme n'y peuvent rien; & bien loin qu'il en foit l'auteur , il en est alors le premier instrument & l'outil.



## François Arouet (Voltaire) (1694 – 1778)

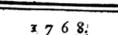


L'HOMME A U X QUARANTE ÉCUS. x 7 6 8.

Il parut plusieurs édits de quelques personnes qui se trouvant de loiser gouvernent l'etat au coin de leur seu. Le préambule de ces édits était que la puissance législatrice & exécutrice est née de droit divin co-proprietaire de ma terre; & que je lui dois au moins la moitié de ce que je mange. L'enormité de l'estomac de la puissance législatrice & éxécutrice me sit faire un grand signe de croix. Que serait-ce si cette puissance qui préside à l'ordre essentiel des sociétés avait ma terre en entier? l'un est encor plus divin que l'autre.

Monsieur le Controlleur Général sait que je ne payais en tout que douze livres; que c'était un fardeau très-pesant pour moi, & que j'y aurais succombé si Dieu ne m'avait donné le génie de faire des paniers d'ozier qui m'aidaient à suportér ma misère. Comment donc pourai je tout d'un coup donner au roi vingt écus? L'HOMME
AUX
QUARANTE
ÉCUS







En fortant de mon cachot, n'ayant que la peau sur les os, je rencontrai un homme joussu & vermeil dans un carosse à six chevaux; il avait six laquais & donnait à chacun d'eux pour gages le double de mon revenu. Son maître d'hôtel aussi vermeil que lui, avait deux mille francs d'apointements, & lui en volait par an vingt mille. Sa maîtresse lui coutait quarante mille écus en six mois : je l'avais connu autresois dans le temps qu'il était moins riche que moi : il m'avoua pour me consoler qu'il jouissait de quatre cent mille livres de rente : vous en payez A 3

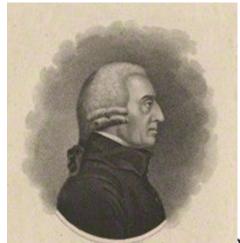
L'HOMME AUX QUARANTE ÉCUS.



1768

donc deux cent mille à l'Etat, lui dis-je, pour soutenir la guerre avantageuse que nous avons; car moi qui n'ai juste que mes cent vingt livres il faut que j'en paye la moitié.

Moi! dit-il, que je contribue aux besoins de l'Etat! Vous voulez rire, mon ami: j'ai hérité d'un oncle qui avait gagné huit millions à Cadix & à Surate; je n'ai pas un pouce de terre; tout mon bien est en contracts, en billets sur la place; je ne dois rien à l'Etat; c'est à vous de donner la moitié de vôtre subsistance, vous qui êtes un Séigneur terrein. Ne voyez vous pas que si le Ministre des Finances exigeait de moi quelques secours pour la Patrie, il serait un imbécile qui ne saurait pas calculer; car tout vient de la terre: l'argent & les billets ne sont que des gages d'échange, au lieu de mettre sur une carte au Pharaon cent septiers de bled, cent bœufs, mille moutons, & deux cent fac's d'avoine, je joue des rouleaux d'or qui représentent ces denrées dégoutantes. Si après avoir mis l'impôt unique sur ces denrées, on venait encore me demander de l'argent, ne voyez vous pas que ce serait un double emploi? que ca serait demander deux fois la même chose? Mon oncle vendit à Cadix pour deux millions de vôtre bled, & pour deux millions d'étoffes fabriquées avec vôtre laine : il gagna plus de cent pour cent dans ces deux affaires.



ove that of the country.

If the rod be bent too much one way, says the proverb, in order to make it straight you must bend it as much the other. The French philosophers, who have proposed the system which represents agriculture as the sole source of the revenue and wealth of every country, seem to have [4] adopted this proverbial maxim; and as in the plan of Mr. Colbert the industry of the towns was certainly over-valued in comparison with that of the country; so in their system it seems to be as certainly under-valued.

The different orders of people who have ever been supposed to contribute in any respect towards the annual produce of the land and labour of the country, they divide into three classes. The first is the class of the proprietors of land. The second is the class of the cultivators, of farmers and country labourers, whom they honour with the peculiar appellation of the productive class. The third is the class of artificers, manufacturers and merchants, whom they endeavour to degrade by the humiliating appellation of the barren or unproductive class.

A 1

#### INQUIRY

INTO THE

Nature and Causes

OF THE

#### WEALTH OF NATIONS.

By ADAM SMITH, LL.D. and F. R.S. Formerly Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of GLASCOW.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. STRAHAN; AND T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND.

MDCCLXXVI.



# **End of Lecture**