

MODERN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
of
GREAT POWERS

VOL. I

BY

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PREFACE

During the last hundred years while the world has been fast developing, the pace of economic development in India has been very slow. Our industrial development which is necessary for creating more varied occupations and for the defence of the country has not gone beyond the establishment of a dozen or so industries producing consumers' goods. Our progress in the establishment of basic industries and industries producing durable consumers' goods like motor cars has been surprisingly slow. Even agriculture, the source of livelihood for three out of four Indians has made little progress from the point of technique and yield. The consequent low national income and the appalling poverty of the people in India have in recent times aroused the interest of the average educated Indian in her economic problems. This interest has been heightened by the sufferings of India in the recent depression. To-day, therefore, in the search for a solution to the economic problems of India, a great deal of patient study is devoted to the understanding of the economic development of progressive countries, more particularly to the measures adopted by them to fight the depression. The Indian Universities have, therefore, rightly introduced in the syllabuses for their degree examinations a study of the economic development of Great Powers like England, U. S. A., Germany, Japan and Russia.

This book, therefore, is an attempt to present to the layman as well as the student of economic history an outline of the economic development of Great Powers. The limitations of space naturally make its fuller discussion difficult but the author would feel satisfied if this work would create interest in the readers to study the voluminous literature that is available to-day on the economic development of the above mentioned countries.

For want of time the present study has been divided into two volumes; the first covers the economic development of England,

U. S. A., Germany and Japan; the second, Russia. This division would be also otherwise appropriate in that the countries covered by the first volume belong to the capitalistic economy: while Russia forms a solitary example of the socialistic economy.

The author has made use of the vast literature that is available to-day on the study of these countries. Where possible a reference has been made to individual writers. But all the same, though not mentioned by name, he owes a great debt to the writers of scores of books mentioned in the Bibliography. The author is also highly indebted to Prof. S. V. Desai, M. S. (Col.) his friend and colleague for his help in correcting proofs and for the valuable suggestions made by him in the improvement of the manuscript.

Ahmedabad, 1st March 1943,

D. S. SAVKAR.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

The Author is very much pleased to note that the book has succeeded in satisfying the long-felt want of the students and the general public for book dealing with the economic progress of the Great Powers. He has been therefore encouraged to bring out the second edition so soon after the first. There are no far-reaching changes made in this edition, but an explanation has been added here and there to clarify certain statements which were not sufficiently clear. The Author has received some suggestions from the public regarding the contents of the book. He will bear them in mind when the book is revised to deal with the present war period after peace is restored. The Author would be glad to receive further suggestions, if any, from the readers.

Baroda, 15th September, 1943.

D. S. SAVKAR.

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