THE ANTI-CAPITALISTIC MENTALITY
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The Anti-capitalistic Mentality

LUDWIG VON MISES

Edited and with a Preface by Bettina Bien Greaves

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CONTENTS

Preface ix
Introduction xi

CHAPTER 1 The Social Characteristics of Capitalism and the Psychological Causes of Its Vilification

1 The Sovereign Consumer 1
2 The Urge for Economic Betterment 2
3 Status Society and Capitalism 3
4 The Resentment of Frustrated Ambition 7
5 The Resentment of the Intellectuals 9
6 The Anti-capitalistic Bias of American Intellectuals 11
7 The Resentment of the White Collar Workers 13
8 The Resentment of the “Cousins” 15
9 The Communism of Broadway and Hollywood 18

CHAPTER 2 The Ordinary Man's Social Philosophy 21

1 Capitalism as It Is and as It Is Seen by the Common Man 21
2 The Anti-capitalistic Front 26

CHAPTER 3 Literature under Capitalism 29

1 The Market for Literary Products 29
2 Success on the Book Market 30
3 Remarks about the Detective Stories 31
4 Freedom of the Press 33
5 The Bigotry of the Literati 35
6 The “Social” Novels and Plays 40

CHAPTER 4 The Noneconomic Objections to Capitalism 44

1 The Argument of Happiness 44
2 Materialism 45
CONTENTS

3 Injustice 48
4 The “Bourgeois Prejudice” for Liberty 54
5 Liberty and Western Civilization 59

CHAPTER 5 “Anticommunism” versus Capitalism 64

Index 69
Throughout most of the twentieth century Ludwig von Mises (1881–1973) was the leading spokesman of the Austrian school, the subjective-value marginal-utility theory of economics. He was born in pre-World War I Austria-Hungary. During the interwar years, he taught at the University of Vienna and worked as an economic adviser to the Austrian government. A few years before the Nazis, under Adolf Hitler, occupied Austria, he moved to Switzerland, where he taught at the Graduate Institute of International Studies. In 1940, after the start of World War II, he fled war-torn Europe and migrated to the United States. He spent the rest of his life in New York City.


Mises presented economics as a science developed by reasoning logically step-by-step from basic a priori categories. Every individual acts purposively, each to attain his or her own personal goals and values. Economics dealt with human action, with the fact that individuals act—their actions and the consequences of their actions, not with their personal reasons or motives for acting. Thus, economics, the study of human action, was value-free. If the basic a priori are actually true and irrefutable, as Mises held they were, and if the step-by-step logic based thereon was sound, as Mises maintained it was, then the conclusions drawn from them must be logically necessary or, as he put it, apodictic. Mises always made his assertions about economics with *apodictic*