Radical Economics

General Editor: SAM AARONOVITCH

Debates between economists are not just technical arguments amongst practitioners but often reflect philosophical and ideological positions which are not always made explicit.

Discontent grew with the prevailing economic orthodoxy as the long period of economic expansion in the advanced capitalist economies came to an end in the 1970s; disenchantment was expressed in open discussion about the 'crisis' in economics and in the rise of various kinds of radical economic theory, often using the general title of 'political economy'.

Many economists have looked for a more fruitful point of departure in the ideas of Marx and the classical economists and also in such contemporary economists as Kalecki and Sraffa. Although it is possible to identify a broad radical stream, it does not mean that there are no significant controversies within this radical approach and, indeed, it would be unhealthy if this were not the case.

Can radical economic theory interpret the world better than the current orthodoxy which it challenges? And can it show also how to change it? This is a challenge which this series proposes to take up, adding to work already being done.

Each book will be a useful contribution to its particular field and should become a text around which the study of economics takes place.

Radical Economics

Published

Keith Cowling, *Monopoly Capitalism*

Forthcoming

Amit Bhaduri, *Macroeconomics*

Michael Bleaney, *The Rise and Fall of Keynesian Economics*

Terry Byres, *The Political Economy of Poor Nations*

Matthew Edel, *Urban Economics*

Michael Howard, *Theories of Profit*

David Purdy, *The Theory of Wages*

Monopoly Capitalism

KEITH COWLING

*Professor of Economics at the
University of Warwick, Coventry, England*

M

© Keith Cowling 1982

All rights reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form
or by any means, without permission.

First edition 1982

Reprinted 1983

Published by

THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

London and Basingstoke

Companies and representatives throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-29205-1 ISBN 978-1-349-16681-7 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-16681-7

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
1 Introduction	1
2 Oligopoly and the Share of Profits	5
3 The Realisation of Profits	42
4 Mergers and Managerialism	71
5 Class Struggle, the Degree of Monopoly and Distribution	96
6 International Competition and the Rate of Profit	128
7 Recent History and Present Crisis	151
<i>References</i>	183
<i>Index</i>	195

Acknowledgements

Serious work on this book began in Cambridge during a sabbatical in 1978–9, and I am much indebted to Bob Rowthorn for extended discussion over that period and since. I hasten to add that he does not agree with all my analysis. Sam Aaronovitch, Paul Geroski and Norman Ireland have read carefully through the whole manuscript and made useful comments and corrections. Shirley Patterson, Ann Sampson, Kerrie Beale and Yvonne Slater did all the typing. I am grateful to all of them.

*University of Warwick
Coventry, England
February 1981*

Keith Cowling