

In recent years, the British economy has entered a period of major change. Many of the old certainties are in doubt: the UK's role as a manufacturing nation, the large factory in an urban setting, the availability of full-time work, and the very nature of work itself. There is a sense in which all this marks a historical turning-point, a shift in the direction of the economy. *The Economy in Question* focuses upon this turning-point to examine what kind of economy is emerging and, in turn, what pattern of uneven development is being laid down.

At the level of the world economy, the book explores the changing position of the UK within the international order and the implications of global change for the national economy. The authors go on to examine the impact of deindustrialization upon the industrial base of the country and the ways in which that base is being transformed. Are we witnessing a shift to a high-tech industrial future? The end of mass production and the rise of a more flexible economy? Perhaps the emergence of a post-industrial service economy? Each direction rests upon a view of what drives an economy and each contains distinct prospects for the cities and the regions.

Each type of change is also the subject of theoretical debate and the authors clearly set out how the theoretical views have been constructed. As a critical examination of the uneven development of the British economy, the book will be an essential text for students and lecturers in geography, economics and the social sciences in general.

The Economy in Question is a course book for the Open University course, D314 *Restructuring Britain*.

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