

Postscript: What Economists

Know

(后记: 经济学家 知道什么)

ALWAYS LEARNING PEARSON

Outline (大纲)

- What Economists Know (经济学家知道什么)
- Beyond Mere Economics (超越纯粹的经济学)

- The economic way of thinking employs the following concepts to make sense of the everyday world (经济学的思维方式使用下述概念理解日常世界)
 - demand
 - opportunity cost
 - marginal effects
 - comparative advantage
 - entrepreneurial profit and loss
 - ...

- Economists know very little
 - about the real-world details (经济学家对于真实世界细节本身的 了解很有限)

- But Economists know
 - how things fit together and how things fall apart (但经济学家知道事物是如何组合在一起的,也知道事物如何分崩离析)

- Economics contributes relatively little to a better understanding of relationships within the family or other small groups. (对于更好地了解家庭和小团体内部的关系,经济学的思维方式相对来说贡献有限)
 - □ People can know one another well enough to cooperate on a personal basis. (这些团体内部的人凭借熟人关系,可以足够了解 彼此以达成合作)

- Economists mostly explain how cooperation occurs among people (经济学家主要解释下面这些人是怎样协作的)
 - who don't know one another at all,
 - □ but who nonetheless manage to work together with extraordinary effectiveness(人们相互完全不认识,然而却能够十分有效地协同工作)

Economists

- put a greater emphasis on what should not be done *than* on what should be done (经济学家更多强调的是不该做什么,而不是该做什么)
- But these negative conclusions are important, though unpopular!(但这些消极结论是重要的,尽管不受欢迎)

- Frank Knight (弗兰克•奈特)
 - □ "It's not ignorance does so much damage; it's knowin' so derned much that ain't so." (造成最大破坏的不是无知,而是知道非常多不正确的东西!)





Beyond Mere Economics (超越纯粹的经济学)

- Economists admit that (经济学家承认)
 - the concepts they employ sometimes distort the reality they study. (他们使用的概念有时会歪曲他们所研究的现实)
 - And they are willing to submit their analysis and conclusions to the test of rational criticism. (他们愿意让自己的分析和结论接受理性批评的检验)

Beyond Mere Economics (超越纯粹的经济学)

- How to become a good economist? (怎样成为一名好的 经济学家)
 - □ skilled in the economic way of thinking (精通经济学的思维方式)
 - □ a knowledge of mathematics and statistics (数学和统计学的知识)
- How to become a better economist? (怎样成为一名出 色的经济学家)
 - exchange of ideas with specialists in other disciplines who study the human condition (与其他研究人类状况的专家交换思想)