

THE

PERVERSE

ECONOMY

This page intentionally left blank

THE PERVERSE ECONOMY

**THE IMPACT OF
MARKETS ON PEOPLE AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

Michael Perelman

palgrave
macmillan



THE PERVERSE ECONOMY
© Michael Perelman, 2003.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2003 978-1-4039-6271-3

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

First published 2003 by
PALGRAVE MACMILLAN™
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010 and
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England RG21 6XS.
Companies and representatives throughout the world.

PALGRAVE MACMILLAN is the global academic imprint of the
Palgrave Macmillan division of St. Martin's Press, LLC and of
Palgrave Macmillan Ltd. Macmillan® is a registered trademark in the
United States, United Kingdom and other countries. Palgrave
is a registered trademark in the European Union and other countries.

ISBN 978-1-4039-7087-9 ISBN 978-1-4039-8026-7 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/9781403980267

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Perelman, Michael.

The perverse economy : the impact of markets on people and the
environment / Michael Perelman.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Economics. 2. Economics—Sociological aspects. 3. Economic
development—Environmental aspects. 4. Income distribution. 5. Labor
productivity. 6. Labor economics. 7. Smith, Adam 1723–1790—Views on
labor economics. 8. Scarcity. 9. Value. I. Title.

HB71.P467 2003
330—dc21

2003046735

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by Newgen Imaging Systems (P) Ltd., Chennai, India.

First edition: November, 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Introduction	1
One	
Adam Smith and the Farm Worker Paradox	7
Two	
Resources	21
Three	
Value	79
Four	
Patience	119
Five	
Environmental Efficiency	133
Six	
Back to the Farm Worker Paradox	145
Seven	
A New Direction	175
References	185
Index	207