

**A selection of films on money and the economy
available for viewing at the CineRobotheque**

My Financial Career (1962) 6 min 30 sec

An animated cartoon film from Stephen Leacock's witty account of a young man's first brush with banking. When he goes to make his deposit he is so overawed by the institution that nothing he intends to say comes out right.

Tilt (1972) 19 min 6 sec

An animated film exposition of what is wrong with our world and how a little more sharing of wealth on the part of the "have" countries might ease many of the world's economic ills. The world is compared to the ball in a pin-ball machine, bouncing this way or that according to how it is manipulated. The forms that they may take are acted out by cartoon characters in a series of wryly amusing sketches.

Prisoners of Debt: Inside the Global Banking Crisis (1983) 57 min 35 sec

This fast-paced documentary tells the inside story of how Bank of Montreal chairman William Mulholland dealt with his bank's debt-laden customers, Dome Petroleum and Mexico, during the summer of 1982, the summer the global debt crisis took the world by surprise. Interwoven with the Bank of Montreal's story are interviews with well-known international bankers and financial experts who explain the causes of the debt crisis, confirm the extreme fragility of the international banking system, and outline the problems to be solved if the system is to survive.

Megadream (1985) 55 min 10 sec

This documentary exploring some of the intricacies of British Columbia's controversial northeast coal development project ultimately questions whether a reliance on megaprojects is the way to finance a healthy economy. The film examines Japan's role as a potential buyer of the coal, the federal and provincial arguments about the cost of transportation infrastructures, workers' competition for jobs, the rivalry between the northeast project and the established coal operations in southeast B.C., and the financial losses that were involved.

Reckoning : The Political Economy of Canada series (1986-1987):

1) The Rise and Fall of the American Business Culture 57 min 14 sec

On the evidence presented here, one enormous problem facing our neighbor is a serious malaise in its manufacturing sector. No longer competitive in the world market, forced to buy more than it can sell, the United States nevertheless continues to bask in the glow of past glories rather than face its current problems head-on. It plans not; neither does it save. Leaning on economic theories that, some say, may never have had much validity, the United States borrows for its inflated needs while

watching its rust belt expand. Meanwhile, Japan and other Pacific Rim countries are gaining economic ground that may never be reclaimed. Part one of the series.

2) Shift Change 56 min 36 sec

The microchip, invented by an American, exploited by the Japanese, is seen here to have caused a second industrial revolution. The devastating effect on millions of human lives is shown in microcosm through interviews with some of the newly jobless in Hamilton, Ontario. Faces bitter, voices hopeless, they speak of a vibrant secure past having suddenly given way to a bleak present and an uncertain future; they fear for their children's prospects. Using the example of Japan as contrast, host James Laxer demonstrates that the cost of technological advances need not be so high if their effects are foreseen and planned for. Part two of the series.

3) Riding the Tornado 57 min 22 sec

Boom and bust economic cycles are inevitable in countries that are dependent primarily on resource exports. Countries like Canada. And we've had our share: minerals, timber, wheat. Perhaps the most spectacular boom and bust experienced in Canada was that in Alberta oil during the seventies and early eighties. When the bust hit, with a drop in world oil prices, those business people who knew how to "ride a tornado" (as one Albertan described the experience) simply cut their losses and moved out and on. Many others were devastated, left with nowhere to go. But the picture is not completely bleak. Faced with a possible oil boom of its own, Newfoundland is taking the lessons of Alberta to heart. Part three of the series.

4) In Bed With An Elephant 59 min 48 sec

Using archival film footage, this hour-long documentary provides a gripping retrospective of United States-Canada relationships as personified by successive presidents and prime ministers. It becomes quite clear that our prime ministers, from John A. Macdonald down, have started their tenures on a sort of first-things-first basis by making overtures to their American counterparts. Attitudes and outcomes have varied widely, and this is what intrigues when seen in close-up. The almost comic antipathy between Kennedy and Diefenbaker, for instance, is as palpable here as is the folksy camaraderie of Reagan and Mulroney. Part four of the series.

5) At the Crossroads 58 min 23 sec

This last hour of a five-part series offers no answers to Canada's economic troubles. But it does lay out, for the viewer's discretion, a summary of the facts at hand and some possible alternatives to marriage with the United States. Some of the facts are discomfiting. For instance, at roughly thirty percent, we're already more foreign-owned than any other country in the world. The good news in this film is that a great, stubborn, national pride in our cultural and social differences is alive and well. It may just give us the

confidence to look elsewhere besides the United States for economic alliances and models. Part five of the series.

The Brokers (1987) 29 min 10 sec

This film demystifies the complex but fascinating world of the investment business. We are given a privileged view of one of Canada's largest brokerage houses, McLeod, Young, Weir and Co. Ltd., and we also hear from some people who understand the complexities of the Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver stock exchanges. We are given a glimpse of a business that forms the basis for capitalism in North America, an instant barometer of the health of the economy.

Super-Companies (1987) 56 min 48 sec

The super-companies of this film are multi-national corporations that treat the world as one market. They take raw materials from one place, process them in another, and sell them everywhere. Shot on four continents, *Super-Companies* provides a provocative view of the way our world is being shaped by economic powers that are often at odds with the needs of people.

Who's Counting: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics (1995)
94 min 3 sec

With irony and intelligence Marilyn Waring demystifies the language of economics by defining it as a value system in which all goods and activities are related only to their monetary value and monetary exchange with the result that unpaid work, usually done by women, is unrecognized and activities that may be environmentally and socially hazardous are regarded as productive. She maps out an alternative economic vision based on the idea of time as the one thing we all have to exchange. Shot in Canada, New Zealand, New York City, the Persian Gulf and the Philippines this film is an entertaining primer for anyone who suffers from what Waring calls "economics anxiety."

The Emperor's New Clothes (1995) 53 min 5 sec

Filmed in Canada, the United States and Mexico over a three-year period, this provocative documentary immerses itself in the stark reality of life before, during and after the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). It takes an incisive look at the profound effects that economic agreements between big business and government can have on human lives, including increased cuts to social programs, massive unemployment, environmental damage, and demoralization.

After examining the situation in Canada, the film follows a delegation of workers to Mexico to see where some of their jobs have gone. They find the lawns in front of industrial plants greened by sprinklers, while some Mexican workers live in cardboard shacks without running water. It's a revealing and emotional experience for the Canadians, and for the viewers of this thought-provoking film. The Emperor's New Clothes poses a powerful, sobering question: In this global

war of cut-rate economies, are people on the losing side?

Economix series (1996)

From John Wayne to Elvira Kurt, from stills to computer animation, from waltz to rap--*Economix* offers an entertaining approach to economics. The eight programs in this four-volume series cover most major concepts in the senior secondary economics curriculum. The concepts are structured in order to tell a story in 3- or 4-minute clips, separated by animated questions. Each volume is approximately a half hour in length. *Volume 1: Needs and Wants - The Market:* Our choices must take into account the limited resources of our planet in exchanging of goods and services (32 min. 56 sec.). *Volume 2: Production - Consumption:* Competitiveness and cost-effectiveness are achieved by improving performance. Consumption choices should consider financial capacity (31 min. 23 sec.). *Volume 3: The Banking System - The Role of Government:* Financial institutions play a key role in economic development. Government economic policies regulate the public debt and effect society (36 min. 29 sec.). *Volume 4: International Trade - Tomorrow's Challenges:* Free trade permits better sharing of resources and promotes a balance in international trade through global economies (35 min. 5 sec.).

Turbulences (1998) 52 min

Pourquoi les riches deviennent-ils de plus en plus riches et les pauvres de plus en plus pauvres? Pour comprendre les mécanismes économiques qui conduisent à cette situation explosive, la réalisatrice a fait le tour de la planète. Elle a rencontré au Canada des ouvriers ayant perdu leur emploi à cause de la sous-traitance et des enseignants en lutte contre les coupures dans l'éducation : elle a rencontré aussi des marchandes de poisson qui subissent les contrecoups des politiques d'ajustement structurel au Sénégal, des ouvrières qui dénoncent leurs conditions de travail à Bangkok, des endettés qui s'unissent contre les banques à Mexico, des familles sans logis qui squattent des logements à Paris... Elle a interrogé aussi des banquiers, des gestionnaires de fonds, des spéculateurs. Son film *Turbulences* est une critique percutante du primat de l'économique sur le social et le politique et une mise en garde contre le pouvoir sans précédent des marchés financiers

Les oubliés du XXI^e siècle ou La Fin du travail (2000) 52 min

Le XX^e siècle a vu l'accumulation de richesses colossales, en partie redistribuées sous forme de salaires rétribuant un travail de masse. Source d'innombrables conflits, ce modèle a néanmoins favorisé une amélioration globale de nos conditions de vie. Mais le temps des chefs d'industrie pourvoyeurs d'emplois est révolu. Pour les financiers devenus maîtres de l'économie mondiale, la rationalisation de la production semble passer par la substitution des ressources technologiques aux ressources humaines. Sommes-nous entrés dans le siècle de l'«horreur économique»? Voici un film qui soulève des questions cruciales et propose des pistes pour repenser l'avenir. Une enquête qui nous mène au Mexique, en France, et au Canada et qui témoigne de la dégradation globale des

conditions de vie et de travail des salariés. Un document qui donne la parole à ces oubliés lucides et combatifs d'un siècle fort mal engagé.

Vue Du Sommet (2001) 75 min 15 sec

Sommet des Amériques, 20 avril 2001. Québec a des allures de ville assiégée. Alors que, dans le périmètre de sécurité, les invités des milieux politique et financier discutent des accords de la Zone de libre-échange des Amériques (ZLEA), des groupes de citoyens, venus de partout sur le continent, manifestent leur opposition dans les rues. La majorité d'entre eux entendent le faire dans le calme. D'autres, non. La fin de semaine s'annonce chaude. Elle le sera. Caméra à l'épaule, sept équipes de tournage ont suivi les événements dans Québec à demi asphyxiée par les gaz.