

AKUNTANSI DAN KAPITALISME: MERUNUTKAN ASAL

Ari Kamayanti
“Accounting and the birth of the
notion of capitalism”
(Chiapello, 2007)

KAPAN AKUNTANSI DIASOSIASIKAN DENGAN KAPITALISME?

Werner Sombart di tahun 1902 menulis buku yang berjudul *Der Moderne Kapitalismus*, yang mengalami revisi di tahun 1916 dan 1928. Di situ ia menulis tentang keterkaitan antara DEB (*Direct Entry Bookkeeping*) dengan kapitalisme.

TIGA MASA KAPITALISME

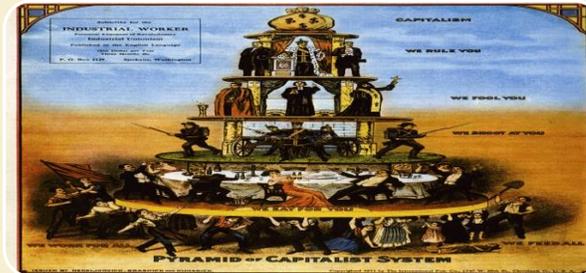
There were separate identifiable periods within capitalism itself.

1. Early capitalism or Fruhkapitalismus (from the 13th to the middle of the 18th century),
2. Full capitalism or Hochkapitalismus (from the middle of the 18th century to the first World War); and
3. Late Capitalism (since 1914) (Sombart, 1930).

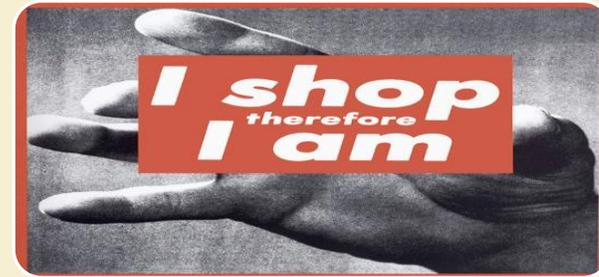
PERKEMBANGAN KAPITALISME



The capitalistic entrepreneurs, and their subordinates, the workmen, still bear the earmarks of their feudal or handicraft origin: their economic outlook still exhibits the superficial characteristics of pre-capitalistic mentality.



in the period of full capitalism the principles of profit and economic rationalism attain complete control and fashion all economic relationships.. Scientific, mechanistic technology is widely applied.



The introduction of Profit and Loss account to close up ledgers

BAGAIMANA AKUNTANSI MENIMBULKAN KAPITALISME?

Keeping accounts encouraged *order and clarity*

The idea of *accumulation* also developed thanks to DEB

Rationalisation of commerce became possible. DEB reflects the “close cohesion between the reign of the principal of accumulation, and the trend towards rationalisation”, both being founded on “codification of the business world into figures

DEB created a “*system of concepts*”, including “*those that are familiar* to us because we use them to understand the world of the capitalistic economy

DEB’s contribution to the *separation of the business and its owner*. “*The existence of the capitalist enterprise*”, he says, “*must be considered as the organisation of production in such a way as to free each undertaking from its owner (...)* it must be acknowledged that accounting has contributed significantly to this emancipation.”

WEBER, 1991, P. 297- ACCOUNTING AND CAPITALISM

“The most universal condition for the existence of modern capitalism is, for all large lucrative businesses supplying our daily needs, the use of a rational capital account as standard”

It does not bring capitalism into being, but its existence is a sign of capitalism, as it needs all the other institutions of capitalism (free labour market, significant monetary circuits, calculability, etc.) in order to function.

KRITIK ATAS PEMIKIRAN SOMBART

Basil
Yamey

- accounting data can only ever concern the past, while decisions relate to the future; therefore, accounts can only have a very small role to play in decision making and thus in business rationalisation

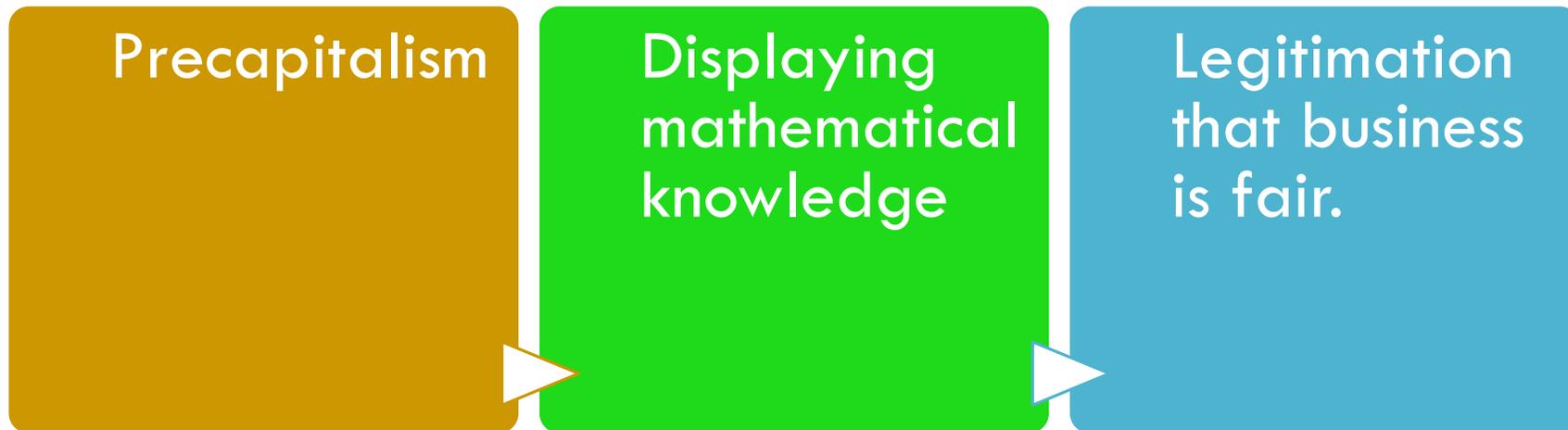
James O
Winjum

- DEB was not used by most merchants, who had no need for it. When partnerships were set up, however, “double-entry was generally considered **the fairest** method in situations where diverse interests were concerned

Sombart (1916)	Yamey (1964)	Winjum (1971)	Lemarchand (1992)
1. DEB contributes to order and discipline	Agrees	Agrees	Not discussed
2. DEB constructs the idea of accumulation: - everything is expressed as a value that appreciates or depreciates - the concept of capital	Disagrees, because establishing summary accounts is rare and not performed on a regular basis. Capital can be calculated without using DEB (based on inventory and debts).	Observes that the method for calculating capital is explained in texts as early as the second half of the 16th century.	There are two accounting models for capitalism. Monitoring of the entire capital cycle is only possible with appropriate recording of stocks, investments and depreciation in a DEB system. This does not become standard practice until the end of the 19 th century.
3. The accounts are a tool for economically rationalising decisions, by relating them to the capital accumulation objective.	The accounts are not very useful in taking decisions concerning the future.	Although not used by all traders, this opportunity was known to some and recommended by the textbooks. Knowledge of the past is a help for decisions involving the future.	Not discussed
4. Creation of a system of concepts used by actors and economists in their view of economic life in the capitalist world.	Not discussed	Not discussed	Some concepts appeared in accounting before being used in political economy, but does this mean that accounting is the source of economic representations? Another hypothesis is that tradesmen's reasoning influenced both accounting and economics.
5. Separation of the business from its owner	Disagrees, the separation results from "partnerships"	But there was awareness from the start of the possibility of separating ownership and management through DEB, although it was rarely used (most merchants had no partners).	Not discussed

NOT JUST TECHNICAL ISSUE...

If there is a link between DEB and capitalism, it should not be analysed in terms of technical use, i.e. along the lines established by Yamey in 1949 and followed by Winjum and Lemarchand. The important factor is not the technical advantages of DEB, but its advantages in terms of legitimacy



WHAT HAPPENS WITH GOD?

The accounting record books invoked God at the start and thanks were given for any profit made. Only gradually did the rhetoric of accounting come to be expressed in a vocabulary of rationality, leaving behind the need to call on the rhetoric of Cicero, or Aristotle's models of justice, or God to establish the legitimacy of transactions. Little by little, accounting became the incarnation of rationality, in line with the new source of legitimacy provided under high capitalism.

KRITIKAN BRYER ATAS AKUNTANSI DAN KAPITALISME

What is important for him is not the kind of accounting used (double-entry or single-entry) but the accounting signature associated with each calculative mentality (feudal, capitalistic and capitalist).

it was not using DEB that made the difference, but actually reasoning in terms of capital and return on capital. This kind of reasoning can operate without DEB (Yamey 1964) and DEB can be used without applying this reasoning (Lemarchand 1992).

It is possible, through analysis of accounting methods, to identify for various business sectors (trade, farming, etc) and countries the periods when capitalistic mentalities appeared and the way they developed. His aim is not to determine the contribution made by accounting to the birth and development of capitalism (which he sees above all as a product of the class struggle) but to date the various stages of capitalism by reference to accounting, and to validate Marx's historical theory on the transition from feudalism to capitalism).

THE WORD "CAPITALISM" PENNED FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN 1850 BY LOUIS BLANC IN HIS TREATISE
ORGANISATION DU TRAVAIL

"Economic and social regime in which capital as a source of income does not generally belong to those who implement it in their own work" (quoted by Braudel, 1979, p.276)

SISTEM EKONOMI MELIPUTI 3 ASPEK

Sombart menjelaskan Sistem Ekonomi sebagai

"a mode of providing for material wants"

- Mental attitude
- Form of organization
- technique

UNBREAKABLE LINK BETWEEN CAPITALISM AND ACCOUNTING

Weber even later went so far as to define capitalism by the capital account, acknowledging the unbreakable link between capitalism and capital accounting.

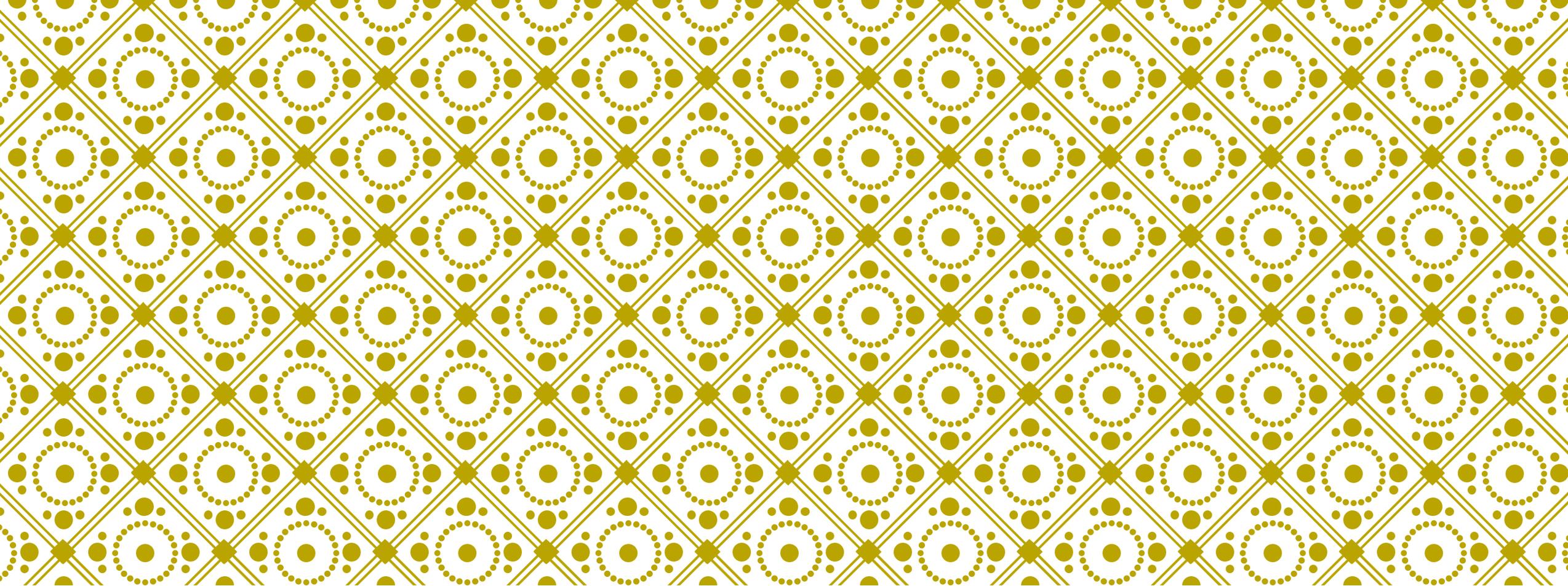
The links between capitalism and accounting are thus perhaps more conceptual (since the first could only be born conceptually thanks to the second) than historical (in the sense that the first capitalists would have taken advantage of all the opportunities offered by DEB).

DEB IS CAPITALISM

Its purpose was not to seek links between DEB and capitalism at its origins as predecessors have, but to **find them within the concept of capitalism** itself. This is exactly what Weber's definition of capitalism says, in defining capitalism by the capital account (see above). For Weber, all the other circumstances required historically by capitalism follow on from the existence of the capital account as a standard for economic activity. But he never really explains the bond between this capital account and the other requirements, and so most commentators have not seen **how central the accounting concept is in the Weberian definition of capitalism.**

SAD OUTCOME (TODAY) FOR ACCOUNTING

Since the concepts used in pure economics are broadly based on anticipations, and are thus unmeasurable in accounting terms, accounting is reduced to being seen as a plaything at the mercy of the interests of the actors, devoid of any metrological substance, manipulated by corporate management to optimize their own remuneration or in order to avoid taxes.



**APAKAH DENGAN DEMIKIAN
KAPITALISME INHEREN DALAM
AKUNTANSI (DEB)?**