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The Discourse on Political Economy is important as giving the first sketch of the theory of the “General Will.” It will readily be seen that Rousseau does not mean by “political economy” exactly what we mean nowadays. He begins with a discussion of the fundamental nature of the State, and the possibility of reconciling its existence with human liberty, and goes on with an admirable short study of the principles of taxation. He is thinking throughout of “political” in the sense of “public” economy, of the State as the public financier, and not of the conditions governing industry. He conceives Discourse on Political Economy. Edited and translated by Victor Gourevitch, Wesleyan University, Connecticut. Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Publisher: Cambridge University Press. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316584606.010>. pp 1-38. Export citation. Recommend this book. Email your librarian or administrator to recommend adding this book to your organisation's collection. Rousseau: The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings. 2nd edition. Edited and translated by Victor Gourevitch. Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Online ISBN: 9781316584606. Book DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316584606>. You can view Economic Discourse Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. Not many people are specialists in economics, but everyone tends to have the impression of knowing something about economic crises—and, above all, they are eager to talk about it. The economic crisis seems to have been the dominant topic more. Not many people are specialists in economics, but everyone tends to have the impression of knowing something about economic crises—and, above all, they are eager to talk about it. The economic crisis seems to have been the dominant topic of the last decade at least in Romania, generating a plurality of parallel or even contradictory discourses.