

Economic History of Europe  
Economics 4514-002

Course Syllabus and Reading List

September. Prior to your presentation, each group will schedule a brief organizational meeting with Prof. Carlos. Each group will hand in a six page written assessment of the article at the time of the class presentation. More exact details will be provided in class.

**Examinations:**

Both the midterm and the final examinations will be take home examinations and will be posted on the class site on the Economics Department home page under courses. All examinations must be double spaced and typed.

Midterm 1 - posted Oc

## Topic Outline and Readings

### 1. Introduction and Long Term Growth

The central theme of this course is the development of the modern economy in Europe. A question which must be addressed, therefore, is exactly how this modern economy differs from the traditional agrarian economy which preceded it. What are the variables one would use to distinguish between a modern and a traditional society? This, it should be realized, is the same question addressed in courses on development economics, although from a different perspective.

- Cameron and Neal, ch. 1 and 2
- Jared Diamond, *Guns Germs and Steel*, ch. 10

### 2. Europe First - When and Where?

- Robert C. Allen, "The Great Divergence in European Wages and Prices from the Middle Ages to the First World War", *Explorations in Economic History*, Vol 38, October 2001: 411-47.
- Carol Shiue and Wolfgang Keller, "Markets in China and Europe on the eve of the Industrial Revolution, working paper, <[www.nber.org/papers/w10778](http://www.nber.org/papers/w10778)>
- Gregory Clark, "The Condition of the Working Class in England, 1209-2004, *Journal of Political Economy*, vol 113, Dec 2005, pp. 1307-40.
- N.F.R. Crafts, *British Economic Growth During the Industrial Revolution* ch. 3

### 3. Medieval Europe: Resources and Expansion

Any study of economic change must pay due attention to the First World War", D(ent0Tj1.



- Cameron and Neal, pp. 165-168
- Robert C. Allen, "Trac

**Group #9** - Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, "Credit Markets and Economic Change in Southeastern France, 1630-1788" *Explorations in Economic History*, April 1993.

**Group #10** - Ann M. Carlos and Larry Neal "Capital Market Activity During and After the South Sea Bubble: Bank of England Shares 1720-1725". *Economic History Review*, August 2006.

For an overview of the relative impact of the various forces we have examined, see:

Robert C. Allen, "Progress and Poverty in Early Modern Europe" *Economic History Review*, Vol. LVI, August 2003

## 7. The Idea of the Industrial Revolution - Technological Change: Nature and Origins

The beginnings of modern economic growth have been associated with a relatively short period (a generation or two) in the late eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century. Exactly what the writer has in mind has varied over time. A particularly interest summary of these views on England is given in:

Cameron and Neal, ch. 7,

Measuring change and understanding the processes by which change occur are very different. Conventional wisdom indicates that technological change was an important source of growth. Our problem is that we do not know as much as we would like about technological change. One approach to the problem is suggested in:

Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches*, chs. 7 and 11

## 8. Quantitative Dimensions of British

