Econ 112, European Economic History
John F. Henry
Fall 2003
Office: Tahoe Hall 3033
Office Hours: MW 10-11:00; TTH 3-4:00
and by appointment
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Prerequisite: Sophomore Standing
G.E. Status: Area C1, World Civilizations

Course Description: An analysis and evaluation of the economic forces and institutions shaping European economic development through the present period. Attention will be paid to the relationship between changes in the economic environment and attendant cultural, political, and ideological developments in the stages of tribalism, slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and socialism.

Learning Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the interrelationship between economic factors and social, political, and cultural development. Emphasized will be those forces that led to various economic changes, and the consequences of those changes on the social fabric. There will be three main benchmarks against which change will be evaluated: the status of equality in general—to what extent does economic change promote greater or less inequality; the status of women and various “racial” or ethnic populations; the status of science and technology—to what extent does economic change promote or retard science and technology. By the end of this course, students shall have (1) gained an appreciation for the role of the economy in explaining change and various developments in larger society, including science and technology; (2) come to a respectable level of understanding of the distinctions among tribal, feudal, slave, capitalist, and socialist economic organization; (3) developed an understanding of and appreciation for the “embedded” nature of the economy and the debates surrounding this issue (4) developed an understanding of the role of the economy in the development, perpetuation, or amelioration of various inequalities, in particular those of gender and race (5) developed an appreciation for the theories (and the intellectuals behind those theories) which have shaped our thinking (in varying ways) on the matters above.

Required Texts:
Bernal, J.D., Science in History, vol.1 (Xerox available in bookstore)
Landes, D., The Wealth and Poverty of Nations
Blaut, J., The Colonizer’s Model of the World

Course Outline and Readings, by Week:
1. Introduction: The Problem Stated
   Society as founded on production; the relation of production to human development;
   progressive and regressive characteristics of economic organizations; growth and human well-
   being; the “embedded,” “disembedded” debate.
2. The Basis of Economic Organization and An Examination of Pre-Civil Society
   Bernal, Ch. 2 (ch.1 recommended) The concept of economic surplus; technology and surplus;
   reasons for early communist organization; the nature of tribal economies; the principle of
   hospitality; status of women.
3. The Transition To Civil Society
   Bernal, Ch. 3: Technology and the production of surplus; the eventual regressive nature of
   tribal economies; the control of surplus and segmentation of tribal society; the emergence
   of Feudal property in Egypt and Mesopotamia
4. Greece and Rome Briefly Considered
   Bernal, Ch. 4: Why slavery?; the nature of slavery in Athens and Rome; effects on economic
development; status of women
5. The Origins and Development of Medieval Feudalism
   Bernal, Chs. 5-6: The collapse of Rome and its consequences on the Germanic and Celtic tribes; war
   chiefs and feudal lords; the continuation of modified tribal arrangements; centrifugal and centripetal
   economic forces.
6. Feudalism continued: Muslim progress and regression; religion as a unifying economic force; religion
   as a retarding factor.
7. Feudalism continued: Social consequences of feudal economic arrangements: vulgarized hospitality; status
   of women; the family.
8. The Transition to Capitalist Society.
   Landes, Chs. 1-12: the nature of capitalist economic relations; the creation of a working class;
   money in a capitalist economy; the economic conflict with feudalism; the Civil War in England
9. The Evolution of Capitalism through the Industrial Revolution
   Landes, Chs. 12-16: colonization and its consequences: racism; the growth and consolidation of a
   working class; the demise of home production; the nature of accumulation
10. Evolution of Capitalism continued: impact on the family; status of women; legal structures
11. The Evolution of Capitalism from the Industrial Revolution through the Development of Oligopoly
    Landes, Chs. 17-25; Blaut: definition of oligopoly capital; transition from competition to
    oligopolistic capital; impact of capitalism on technological change; impact of technology on
    capitalism.
12. The Emergence of Socialism
    Definition of socialism; the relation to the development of oligopoly; relation to consolidation of
    the working class; socialist inklings in the 19th century
    Fascism as an economic development; Germany and the modification of traditional
    capitalism; impact on capital; impact on the working class; status of women; impact on technology
Landes, Chs. 16-19: The emergence of “the welfare state” in Europe: the European Union; economic trends; changing social relations and consequences.

Examinations: All examinations will be a combination of essay and “objective” questions. Questions will be framed to test your understanding of the lecture and reading material, concentrating on the points in the “Learning Objectives” statement above.

Midterms: 1) Covers material through week 4 (25%)
   2) Covers material from week 5 through 8 (25%)
Final: Inclusive, but focuses on material from week 9 through 14 (35%)

All examinations will be conducted in the class hour and will be of the essay variety. Students will bring a large blue book to the examination and will write the exam in pen. All examinations will begin promptly at the appointed time and will end when so specified: Any writing beyond that point will result in a failed paper. Students requiring additional time due to language or other issues must make arrangements with me beforehand. Students are expected to take the examinations at the appointed time. No make-up examination will be given except for serious and compelling reasons (illness, etc.) that must be documented: I must be informed of such situations prior to the examination.

Examinations will test the student’s understanding of both lecture and reading material. It will be impossible to pass this course without committing oneself to the reading program as most of the lectures will not directly cover that which is to be read independently by the student. I shall distribute a list of questions from which the test questions will be drawn. These will speak directly to the above material and will test the student’s understanding of that material in the context of the learning objectives (above).

Grading will be determined on the following basis: the top performer will be awarded the equivalent of 100%. Individual marks will then be classified as “A,” “B,” etc. as a percentage of the high mark. Thus, if the top mark is a 90, the “A” category will begin at 81 (90% of 90), the “B” category at 72, and so on.

NOTE WELL:
This is a demanding course. It requires careful and serious study. I urge you to organize small groups for the purpose of collectively reviewing the material. Do this on a systematic basis. Never wait until the day before an examination to begin your studies.

If you have problems, raise them in class or see me in the office during office hours. Please do not come in at the end of the semester with some reason as to why you should receive a better grade than that which you have earned.

Taping Policy: Taping of lectures is not permitted unless there are special circumstances and the student signs a taping agreement form. If you believe your circumstances are, indeed, special, see me and I’ll provide you with a form for your signature.

Some Useful Web sites:


Selected Bibliography:

The writings in European economic history are enormous, and no attempt is made to be even remotely complete in the following list. For more extensive bibliographies, consult standard texts such as:

- Cameron, Rondo, A Concise Economic History of the World
- Shepard Clough, Economic History of Europe
- Dudley Dillard, Economic Development of the North Atlantic Community
- Herbert Heaton, Economic History of Europe

As well, extensive citations are found in:

- Cambridge Economic History of Europe, Six Volumes
- Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History
- Studies in Economic and Social History (Macmillan)
- Essays in Economic History, E.M. Carus Wilson, ed.

In addition, there are a number of journals dealing expressly with European economic history and almost all economic journals periodically contain articles in these areas. The citations in the general works listed above will specify these. The following are some of the more outstanding journals: Economic History Review, Journal of Economic History, Past and Present.

What follows is a listing of some significant works, many of which will not be found in the standard references cited above.

Scope and Method

Block, M. The Historian’s Craft, 1941.
Burckhardt, J. Reflections on History, 1871.
Carr, Edward Hallett What is History?
Childe, V. Gordon What is History ?, 1953.
The Study of Economic History, 1929.
Gras, Norman S.B. An Introduction to Economic History, 1922.
Gras, Norman S.B. Business and Capitalism; An Introduction to Business History, 1939.
Heaton, Herbert "Stages in Economic History:"AER/S, 20:3-9, Mar. 1930.
Muller, Herbert, J. Uses of the Past, 1952.
Plekhanov, Georgii V. The Materialist Conception of History, 1901.
The Development of the Monist View of History, 1895.
Robertson, A. How To Read History, 1952.
Rogers, James E. Thorold The Economic Interpretation of History, 1909.
See, Henri The Economic Interpretation of History, 1929.
Weber, Max. *General Economic History*,

### Tribal Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briffault, Robert</td>
<td><em>The Mothers</em> (1931)</td>
<td>1 volume.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briffault, Robert</td>
<td><em>The Mothers</em> (1927)</td>
<td>3 volumes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Childe, V. Gordon</td>
<td><em>Social Evolution</em> (1951)</td>
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<td>Engels, Frederick</td>
<td><em>The Origin of the Family, etc.</em></td>
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<td>Morgan, Lewis A.</td>
<td><em>Ancient Society</em> (1877)</td>
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<td>Morgan, Lewis A.</td>
<td><em>League of the Iroquois</em> (1851)</td>
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<td>Morgan, Lewis A.</td>
<td><em>Houses and House-life of the American Aborigines</em>, 1881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nesturkh, M.</td>
<td><em>The Origin of Man</em> (1959)</td>
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<td>Thomson, George D.</td>
<td><em>Studies in Ancient Greek Society</em> (1949-1955), 2 volumes</td>
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<td>White, Leslie A.</td>
<td><em>The Evolution of Culture</em> (1959)</td>
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### Classical Society

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Briffault, Robert</td>
<td><em>Rational Evolution</em> (1930)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bury, J.B.</td>
<td><em>A History of Greece</em></td>
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<td>Caesar, Julius</td>
<td><em>The Gallic War and Other Writings</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Childe, V. Gordon</td>
<td><em>Man Makes Himself</em> (1951)</td>
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<td>Childe, V. Gordon</td>
<td><em>What Happened in History</em> (1942)</td>
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<td>Childe, V. Gordon</td>
<td><em>The Prehistory of European Society</em> (1958)</td>
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<td><em>New Light on the Most Ancient East</em> (1953)</td>
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<td>Childe, V. Gordon</td>
<td><em>The Dawn of European Civilization</em> (1957)</td>
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<td>Farrington, Benjamin</td>
<td><em>Greek Science</em> (1953)</td>
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<td>Farrington, Benjamin</td>
<td><em>Science and Politics in the Ancient World</em> (1939)</td>
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<td>Gibbon, Edward</td>
<td><em>The Decline and Fall of the Romas Empire</em>, 3 volumes.</td>
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<td>Herodotus</td>
<td><em>The Persian Wars</em></td>
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<td>Plutarch</td>
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<td>Polybius</td>
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<td>Robertson, Archibald</td>
<td><em>The Origins of Christianity</em> (1962)</td>
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<td>Robertson, Archibald</td>
<td><em>How to Read History</em> (1952)</td>
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<td>Tacitus</td>
<td><em>The Complete Works of Tacitus</em></td>
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<td>Thucydides</td>
<td><em>The Complete Writings of Thucydides</em></td>
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<td>Tarn, W.W.</td>
<td><em>Hellenistic Civilization</em> (1952)</td>
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<td>Tarn, W.W. et al.</td>
<td><em>The Hellenistic Age</em> (1923)</td>
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<td>Walbank, F.W.</td>
<td><em>The Decline of the Roman Empire in the West</em>, 1946</td>
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### Feudal Society

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<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Antal, Frederick</td>
<td><em>Florentine Painting and Its Social Background</em> (1948)</td>
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Bloch, Marc            Feudal Society, 2 volumes
Bloch, Marc            French Rural History (1931)
Bradley, Harriet       The Enclosures in England (1918)
Briffault, Robert      Rational Evolution (1930)
Briffault, Robert      The Troubadors
Chadwick, H.            The Origin of the English Nation
Engels, Frederick      The Peasant War in Germany
Grekov, Boris           Kiev Rus (1959)
Macek, J.               The Hussite Movement in Bohemia (1965)
Maitland, F.W.          Domesday Book and Beyond (1897)
Michelet, J.            Satanism and Witchcraft
Morris, William         A Dream of John Ball
Morton, A.L.            A People's History of England
Orwin, C.S. and C.S.    The Open Fields (1954)
Pascal, Roy             The Social Basis of the German Reformation (1933)
Perroy, Edourd          The Hundred Years War (1945)
Pirenne, H.             The Early Democracies in the Low Countries (1915)
Stenton, F.             Anglo-Saxon England
Sweezy, Paul, et al.    The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism (1963)
Vinogradoff, P.         The Growth of the Manor (1911)
Vinogradoff, P.         Villainage in England (1892)

Capitalist and Socialism Societies
Baran, Paul            The Political Economy of Growth (1957)
Bernstein, Victor      Final Judgment (1947)
Brady, Robert          Business as a System of Power (1943)
Brady, Robert          The Spirit and Structure of German Fascism (1937)
Briffault, Robert      Breakdown (1935)
Briffault, Robert      The Decline and Fall of the British Empire (1938)
Burchett, Wilfred      Cold War in Germany (1950)
Deborin, G.            The Second World War
Dobb, M.               Studies in the Development of Capitalism
Dobb, M.               Soviet Economic Development Since 1917 (1948)
Dutt, R. Palme         World Politics, 1918-1936 (1936)
Dutt, R. Palme         The Problem of India (1943)
Dutt, R. Palme         The Crisis of Britain and the British Empire (1953)
Eremenko, A.           False Witnesses (1959)
Foster, William Z.     Outline History of the World Movement (1951)
Henri, E.              Hitler Over Europe (1934)
Henri, E.              Hitler Over Russia
Hill, Christopher      The Century of Revolution, 1603-1714 (1961)
Hill, Christopher          The English Revolution, 1640
Kunitz, Joshua             The Giant That Came Last (1947)
Lenin, V.I.                The State and Revolution
Lenin, V.I.                Imperialism
Lissagaray                 The Paris Commune of 1871
Martin, James              All Honorable Men (1950)
Marx, Karl                 Capital (1867) 3 volumes
Mathiez, A.                The French Revolution (1928)
Mathiez, A.                After Robespierre
Meikens, Gregory           The Baltic Riddle (1943)
Reed, John                 Ten Days That Shook the World (1920)
Sasuly, Richard            I.G. Farben (1947)
Sawicki, George            From Nuremberg to the New Wehrmacht (1957)
Sayers, M. and Kahn, A.    The Great Conspiracy (1946)
Smith, Adam                The Wealth of Nations (1776)
Strong, A.L.               The Stalin Era
Stone, I.F.                The Hidden History of the Korean War (1952)
Tarle, Eugene              Napoleon's Invasion of Russia (1942)
Tawney, R.H.               The Agrarian Problem in the Sixteenth Century (1912)