

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
Department of Economics

Econ 112, European Economic History  
Fall 2003

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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
13. The World Between The Wars.  
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
- 14-15. Post-War Europe and the Future.

**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:**

<http://www.iisg.nl/~womhist/womarc.html> (women)  
<http://gort.ucsd.edu/ds/initial.html> (science and technology)  
<http://library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/> (general)  
<http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/tm/europe.html> (general)  
<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/other.html> (money)  
<http://www.britannia.com/history/docs/document.html> (British)  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html> (general)  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html> (medieval)

### **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**

Ashley, W.J. "On the Study of Economic History," Quarterly Journal of Economics, 7:115-36, Jan. 1983.  
 Ashton, T.S. "The Relation of Economic History to Economic Theory," Economica, N.S. 13:81-96, May 1946.  
 Block, M. The Historian's Craft, 1941.  
 Burckhardt, J. Reflections on History, 1871.  
 Carr, Edward Hallett What is History?  
 Chandler, A. And Galambos, eds., "Economic History: Retrospect and Prospect," Journal of Economic

- History, 31, March 1971.
- Childe, V. Gordon History, 1947.
- Childe, V. Gordon What is History?, 1953.
- Clapham, J.H. "Economic History," Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences III, 1937.
- The Study of Economic History, 1929.
- Cole, G.D.M. Introduction to Economic History, 1750-1950, , 1952
- Desai, M. "Some Issues in Econometric History," Economic History Review, 21, April 1968.
- Gay, E.F. "The Tasks of Economic History," JEH/S 1:9-16, Dec. 1941.
- Gould, J.D. "Hypothetical History," EHR, 22, 1969, 195-207.
- Gras, Norman S.B. An Introduction to Economic History, 1922.
- Gras, Norman S.B. "Stages in Economic History", Journal of Economic and Business History, 2:395-418, May 1930.
- Gras, Norman S.B. Business and Capitalism: An Introduction to Business History, 1939.
- Gras, Norman S.B. "The Present Condition of Economic History," QJE 34:209-24, Feb. 1920.
- Gras, Norman S.B. "The Rise and Development of Economic History," Economic History Review 1:12-34, Jan. 1927.
- Hansen, A.H. "The Technological Interpretation of History, " QJE, 36:72-83, Nov. 1921.
- "The Diffusionist Interpretation of History, " Modern Quarterly, Summer 1947.
- Heaton, Herbert "Criteria of Periodization in Economic History," JEH, 15:267-72, Sept. 1955.
- Heaton, Herbert "Stages in Economic History:"Conference" AER/S, 20:3-9, Mar. 1930.
- Heaton, Herbert "The Making of an Economic Historian," EHR, Supp., Vol IX, 1949.
- Heckscher, E.F. "A Plea for Theory in Economic History, Economic History 1:525-34, Jan. 1929.
- Hicks, J.R. A Theory of Economic History, 1969.
- Johnson, E.A.J. "Tools for the Economic Historian," JEH/S, Dec. 1941.
- Muller, Herbert, J. Uses of the Past, 1952.
- Nef, John U. "What is Economic History?" JEH/S 4:1-19, Dec. 1944.
- Pirenne, Henri "The Stages of the Social History of Capitalism," American Historical Rev. 494-515, April 1914.
- Plekhanov, Georgii V. The Materialist Conception of History, 1901.
- The Development of the Monist View of History, 1895.
- Postan, M.M. "Functions and Dialectic in Economic History," English Historical Review, XIV, 397-407 1962.
- Robertson, A. How To Read History, 1952.
- Rogers, James E. Thorold The Economic Interpretation of History, 1909.
- Rostow, W.W. "The Interrelation of Theory and History," JEH 17:509-23, Dec. 1957.
- Schumpeter, J.A. "The Creative Response in Economic History," JEH 7:14-59, Nov. 1947.
- See, Henri The Economic Interpretation of History, 1929.
- Seligman, Edwin R.A. The Economic Interpretation of History, 1961.
- Sombart, W. "Economic Theory and Economic History, EHR, 2:1-19, Jan. 1929.
- Stern, Fritz, Ed. The Varieties of History From Voltaire to the Present, 1956.
- Tawney, R.H. "The Study of Economic History," Ec, 13+1-21, Feb. 1933
- Thrupp, Sylvia L. "The Role of Comparison in the Development of Economic Theory," JEH, Dec. 1957.
- Usher, A.P. "The New Realism and Economic History," EHR, June, 1927
- Usher, A.P. "Institutional Methodology in Economic History," JEH 1:88-96, May 1941.

Weber, Max. General Economic History,

Wright, C.W. "The Nature and Objectives of Economic History," JPE, 46:688-701, Oct. 1938.

### **Tribal Society**

Briffault, Robert The Mothers (1931) 1 volume.

Briffault, Robert The Mothers (1927) 3 volumes.

Childe, V. Gordon Social Evolution (1951)

Engels, Frederick The Origin of the Family, etc.

Morgan, Lewis A. Ancient Society (1877)

Morgan, Lewis A. League of the Iroquois (1851)

Morgan, Lewis A. Houses and House-life of the American Aborigines , 1881

Nesturkh, M. The Origin of Man (1959)

Thomson, George D. Studies in Ancient Greek Society (1949-1955), 2 volumes

White, Leslie A. The Evolution of Culture (1959)

### **Classical Society**

Briffault, Robert Rational Evolution (1930)

Bury, J.B. A History of Greece

Caesar, Julius The Gallic War and Other Writings

Childe, V. Gordon Man Makes Himself (1951)

Childe, V. Gordon What Happened in History (1942)

Childe, V. Gordon The Prehistory of European Society (1958)

Childe, V. Gordon Social Evolution (1951)

Childe, V. Gordon New Light on the Most Ancient East (1953)

Childe, V. Gordon The Dawn of European Civilization (1957)

Farrington, Benjamin Greek Science (1953)

Farrington, Benjamin Science and Politics in the Ancient World (1939)

Gibbon, Edward The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, 3 volumes.

Herodotus The Persian Wars

Plutarch Plutarch's Lives

Polybius Plutarch's Lives

Robertson, Archibald The Origins of Christianity (1962)

Robertson, Archibald How to Read History (1952)

Tacitus The Complete Works of Tacitus

Thucydides The Complete Writings of Thucydides

Tarn, W.W. Hellenistic Civilization (1952)

Tarn, W.W. et al. The Hellenistic Age (1923)

Walbank, F.W. The Decline of the Roman Empire in the West, 1946

### **Feudal Society**

Antal, Frederick Florentine Painting and Its Social Background (1948)

Bloch, Marc	<u>Feudal Society</u> , 2 volumes
Bloch, Marc	<u>French Rural History</u> (1931)
Bradley, Harriet	<u>The Enclosures in England</u> (1918)
Briffault, Robert	<u>Rational Evolution</u> (1930)
Briffault, Robert	<u>The Troubadors</u>
Chadwick, H.	<u>The Origin of the English Nation</u>
Engels, Frederick	<u>The Peasant War in Germany</u>
Grekov, Boris	<u>Kiev Rus</u> (1959)
Hilton, R. and Fagan, H.	<u>The English Rising of 1381</u> (1950)
Kosminksy, E.A.	<u>Studies in the Agrarian History of England</u> (1956)
Macek, J.	<u>The Hussite Movement in Bohemia</u> (1965)
Maitland, F.W.	<u>Domesday Book and Beyond</u> (1897)
Michelet, J.	<u>Satanism and Witchcraft</u>
Morris, William	<u>A Dream of John Ball</u>
Morton, A.L.	<u>A People's History of England</u>
Orwin, C.S. and C.S.	<u>The Open Fields</u> (1954)
Pascal, Roy	<u>The Social Basis of the German Reformation</u> (1933)
Perroy, Edourd	<u>The Hundred Years War</u> (1945)
Pirenne, H.	<u>The Early Democracies in the Low Countries</u> (1915)
Stenton, F.	<u>Anglo-Saxon England</u>
Sweezy, Paul, et al.	<u>The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism</u> (1963)
Vinogradoff, P.	<u>The Growth of the Manor</u> (1911)
Vinogradoff, P.	<u>Villainage in England</u> (1892)
Wallace-Hadrill, J.M.	<u>The Barbarian West</u> (1962)

### **Capitalist and Socialism Societies**

Baran, Paul	<u>The Political Economy of Growth</u> (1957)
Bernstein, Victor	<u>Final Judgment</u> (1947)
Brady, Robert	<u>Business as a System of Power</u> (1943)
Brady, Robert	<u>The Spirit and Structure of German Fascism</u> 1937)
Briffault, Robert	<u>Breakdown</u> (1935)
Briffault, Robert	<u>The Decline and Fall of the British Empire</u> (1938)
Burchett, Wilfred	<u>Cold War in Germany</u> (1950)
Deborin, G.	<u>The Second World War</u>
Dobb, M.	<u>Studies in the Development of Capitalism</u>
Dobb, M.	<u>Soviet Economic Development Since 1917</u> (1948)
Dutt, R. Palme	<u>World Politics, 1918-1936</u> (1936)
Dutt, R. Palme	<u>The Problem of India</u> (1943)
Dutt, R. Palme	<u>The Crisis of Britain and the British Empire</u> (1953)
Eremenko, A.	<u>False Witnesses</u> (1959)
Foster, William Z.	<u>Outline History of the World Movement</u> (1951)
Henri, E.	<u>Hilter Over Europe</u> (1934)
Henri, E.	<u>Hitler Over Russia</u>
Hill, Christopher	<u>The Century of Revolution, 1603-1714</u> (1961)

Hill, Christopher	<u>The English Revolution, 1640</u>
Kunitz, Joshua	<u>The Giant That Came Last</u> (1947)
Lenin, V.I.	<u>The State and Revolution</u>
Lenin, V.I.	<u>Imperialism</u>
Lissagaray	<u>The Paris Commune of 1871</u>
Martin, James	<u>All Honorable Men</u> (1950)
Marx, Karl	<u>Capital</u> (1867) 3 volumes
Mathiez, A.	<u>The French Revolution</u> (1928)
Mathiez, A.	<u>After Robespierre</u>
Meikens, Gregory	<u>The Baltic Riddle</u> (1943)
Reed, John	<u>Ten Days That Shook the World</u> (1920)
Sasuly, Richard	<u>I.G. Farben</u> (1947)
Sawicki, George	<u>From Nuremberg to the New Wehrmacht</u> (1957)
Sayers, M. and Kahn, A.	<u>The Great Conspiracy</u> (1946)
Smith, Adam	<u>The Wealth of Nations</u> (1776)
Strong, A.L.	<u>The Stalin Era</u>
Stone, I.F.	<u>The Hidden History of the Korean War</u> (1952)
Tarle, Eugene	<u>Napoleon's Invasion of Russia</u> (1942)
Tawney, R.H.	<u>The Agrarian Problem in the Sixteenth Century</u> (1912)
Webb, S. & B.	<u>Soviet Communism, A New Civilization?</u> (1937)