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ECONOMICS 201Y1

The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe, 1250 - 1750

SECOND TERM 'A' LIST READINGS: January to April 2004

Table of Contents for the Second Term Package of Readings

Topic No. 6 [13]: The Population Problem and Economic Development in Early Modern Europe: Was There a 'Malthusian Trap'?

D. M. Palliser, 'Tawney's Century: Brave New World or Malthusian Trap?' *Economic History Review*, 2nd ser., 35:3 (Aug. 1982), 339-53.

Peter Lindert, 'English Living Standards, Population Growth, and Wrigley-Schofield', *Explorations in Economic History*, 20:2 (April 1983), 131-55. Ignore the econometrics.

Donald Woodward, 'Wage Rates and Living Standards in Pre-Industrial England', *Past and Present*, no. 91 (1981), 28-45.

E.H. Phelps Brown and Sheila Hopkins, 'Wage Rates and Prices: Evidence of Population Pressure in the Sixteenth Century', *Economica*, 24:97 (Nov. 1957), 289-305; and 'Builders' Wage-Rates, Prices and Population: Some Further Evidence', *Economica*, 26:101 (Feb. 1959), both reprinted in Phelps Brown and Hopkins, *A Perspective of Wages and Prices* (London, 1981), pp. 60-77, 78-98.

Herman Van der Wee, 'Prices and Wages as Development Variables: A Comparison Between England and the Southern Netherlands, 1400-1700', *Acta Historiae Neerlandicae*, 10 (1978), 58-78.

Topic No. 7 [14]: The European Price Revolution Era c.1540 - c. 1640: The Problem of Inflation and Economic Growth in Early-Modern Europe

A. On the Causes of the Price Revolution

R. B. Outhwaite, *Inflation in Tudor and Early Stuart England*, Studies in Economic and Social History series, 2nd edn. (London, 1982), pp. 11 - 60. Good overview, but weak on economic analysis.

John Munro, 'The Monetary Origins of the 'Price Revolution': South German Silver Mining, Merchant-Banking, and Venetian Commerce, 1470-1540', in Dennis Flynn, Arturo Giráldez, and Richard von Glahn, eds., *Global Connections and Monetary History, 1470 - 1800* (Aldershot and Brookfield, Vt: Ashgate Publishing, 2003), pp. 1-34.

Jack A. Goldstone, 'Urbanization and Inflation: Lessons from the English Price Revolution of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries', *American Journal of Sociology*, 89 (1984), 1122 - 60.

Peter Lindert, 'English Population, Wages, and Prices: 1541 - 1913', *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 15:4 (Spring 1985), 609-34, especially pp. 618-29.

Nicholas Mayhew, 'Population, Money Supply, and the Velocity of Circulation in England, 1300-1700', *Economic History Review*, 2nd ser., 48:2 (May 1995), 238-57.

B. On the Consequences of the Price Revolution: Hamilton's Theory of 'Profit Inflation'

David Felix, 'Profit Inflation and Industrial Growth: The Historic Record and Contemporary Analogies', *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 70 (1956), 442-63; reprinted in Roderick Floud, ed., *Essays in Quantitative Economic History* (Oxford, 1974), pp. 133-51. Critique of Hamilton.

J.D. Gould, 'The Price Revolution Reconsidered', *Economic History Review*, 2nd ser., 17 (1964-65). Reprinted in Peter Ramsey, ed., *The Price Revolution in Sixteenth-Century England*, Debates in Economic History series (London, 1971), pp. 91-116.

Topic No. 8 [17]: 'The Rise of the Gentry' Debate: Landlords, Social Change, and the Rise of Agrarian Capitalism in Tudor-Stuart England, 1540 - 1640

R.H. Tawney, 'The Rise of the Gentry, 1558-1640', *Economic History Review*, 1st ser., 11 (1941). Reprinted with a postscript (1954) in E.M. Carus-Wilson, ed., *Essays in Economic History*, Vol. I (London, 1954), pp. 173-214.

H.J. Habakkuk, 'English Landownership, 1680-1740', *Economic History Review*, 1st ser., 10 (1940), 2 - 17. Provides the mirror image of Tawney's analysis, for the post 1660 period; and note that it was published in the year preceding the publication of Tawney's famous essay.

Lawrence Stone, ed., *Social Change and Revolution in England, 1540-1640*, *Problems & Perspectives Series* (London, 1965). Part I consists of articles and essays (usually condensed by the major participants in this debate about the 'Rise of the Gentry' and the Origins of the Civil War:

- a) Lawrence Stone, 'Problems of Historiography: Introduction', pp. xi-xxvi.
- b) R. H. Tawny, 'The Rise of the Gentry', pp. 6-18
- c) H.R. Trevor Roper, 'The Decline of the Mere Gentry', pp. 19-32.
- d) J. H. Hexter, 'The Military Decline of the Aristocracy', pp. 33-44.
- e) P. Zagorin, 'Critique of the Trevor-Roper Thesis', pp. 45-59.

George E. Mingay, *The Gentry: The Rise and Fall of a Ruling Class* (London, 1976), especially chapters 1, pp. 1-17; and 3, pp. 39-79. The best modern study on this subject.

Topic No. 9 [15]: The Protestant Reformations and 'The Rise of Capitalism': The Weber-Tawney Theses and Their Critics

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, trans. Talcott Parsons (New York, 1930). Forward by Tawney and Preface by Weber (pp. 1-31); and especially chapter V: 'Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism', pp. 155-83.

R. H. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism* (London: 1926): the Preface, and Chapter IV: 'The Puritan Movement', pp. 164-226; and Chapter V: Conclusion, pp. 227-35.

Christopher Hill, 'Protestantism and the Rise of Capitalism', in F. J. Fisher, ed., *Essays in the Economic and Social History of Tudor and Stuart England* (London: 1961), pp. 15-39.

Alastair Hamilton, 'Max Weber's *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*', in Stephen P. Turner, ed., *Cambridge Companion to Weber* (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 151-71, 256-71.

Malcolm MacKinnon, 'The Longevity of the Thesis: A Critique of the Critics', in Hartmut Lehmann and Guenther Roth, eds., *Weber's Protestant Ethic: Origins, Evidence, Contexts* (Cambridge and New York, 1993), pp. 211-43. A collection of modern essays on this debate.

Topic No. 10 [20]: The 'General Crisis' of the 17th Century (ca. 1620-1740): The Hobsbawm Thesis on the Origins of the Industrial Revolution [and/or 'The Transition from Feudalism to Modern Capitalism']

Eric Hobsbawm, 'The Crisis of the Seventeenth Century', *Past and Present*, nos. 5 (May 1954), 33-53 & no. 6 (Nov. 1954), 44-65; **and** H. R. Trevor Roper, 'The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century', *Past and Present*, no. 16 (Nov. 1959), 31-64, both reprinted in: Trevor Aston, ed., *Crisis in Europe, 1560-1660: Essays from Past and Present* (London, 1965), pp. 5-58, and 59-96.

Geoffrey Parker and L.M. Smith, eds., *The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century* (London, 1978). Collection of essays: read in particular:

- a) Geoffrey Parker, 'Introduction', pp. 1-15.
- b) Niels Steensgaard, 'The Seventeenth Century Crisis', pp. 26-56.

Theodore K. Rabb, *The Struggle for Stability in Early Modern Europe* (Oxford, 1976), chapters 1 - 4 (on the 'General Crisis'), pp. 3 - 34. Excellent analysis of the debate.

Jan De Vries, *The Economy of Europe in an Age of Crisis, 1600-1750* (Cambridge, 1976), especially chapter one, pp. 1 - 29. An excellent and perceptive survey of the major economic problems.

Special Notes

Prescribed Readings:

You are expected to do some of the readings for the **FIVE "A" LIST TOPICS**, which have been selected as the primary essay topics for the Winter-Spring Term of January to April 2004. All five of these topics will appear on the final examination (along with the five "A" list topics for the first term, Sept to Dec 2003). Therefore, in reading the following essays and journal articles, you will be doing the major research preparations for both your first term essay and for the final examination. Although the accompanying short-format bibliographies for these five topics do list current journal articles, the following package of readings does not necessarily contain such articles. I have chosen those articles and essays, chiefly older ones, that

have proved to be seminal or of at least major importance in inspiring or in guiding the debates for the themes in these selected essay topics. Many recent articles are, of course, just partial responses to earlier articles on these debates, or contributions in minor areas of these debates.

This package of readings has been prepared by me (who did the photocopying) and by:

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