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Eco. 301Y1: The Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Topic 3 [4] : Feudal Governments, Warfare, Taxation, and ‘Economic Crises’ in Later Medieval Europe, 1280 - 1500

Recommended readings: the more important ones are indicated by asterisks *

A. Warfare and its Economic Aspects: Taxation and Public Finance

- * 1. B.M.S. Campbell, ed., Before the Black Death: Studies in the ‘Crisis’ of the Early Fourteenth Century (Manchester, 1991). See the following essays:
 - a) Barbara Harvey, ‘Introduction: the “Crisis” of the Early Fourteenth Century’, pp. 1-24.
 - b) John H. Munro, ‘Industrial Transformations in the North-west European Textile Trades, c.1290 - c.1340: Economic Progress or Economic Crisis?’, pp. 110-48.
 - c) W.M. Ormrod, ‘The Crown and the English Economy, 1290-1348’, pp. 149-83.
- * 2. Edward Miller, ‘War, Taxation, and the English Economy in the Late Thirteenth and Early Fourteenth Centuries,’ in J.M. Winter, ed., War and Economic Development: Essays in Memory of David Joslin (Cambridge, 1975), pp. 11-32.
- * 3. J.R. Maddicott, The English Peasantry and the Demands of the Crown, 1294-1341 (Past and Present Supplement no. 1, Oxford: 1975), 75 pp. Reprinted in T.H. Aston, ed., Landlords, Peasants, and Politics in Medieval England (Cambridge, 1987), pp. 285-359.
- * 4. J. R. Strayer, ‘The Costs and Profits of War: The Anglo-French Conflict of 1294-1303,’ in H.A. Miskimin, D. Herlihy, A.L. Udovitch, ed., The Medieval City (New Haven, 1977), pp. 269-292.
- * 5. Chris Briggs, ‘Taxation, Warfare, and the Early Fourteenth Century “Crisis” in the North: Cumberland Lay Subsidies, 1332-1348’, The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 58:4 (November 2005), 639-72.
- * 6. A.R. Bridbury, ‘Before the Black Death,’ Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 30 (Aug. 1977), 393-410. An attack on Maddicott and Miller (in fact implicitly on all the ideas in nos. 1-4 above)].
- * 7. Herman Van der Wee and Theo Peeters, ‘Un modèle dynamique de croissance interseculaire du commerce mondial (XIIe-XVIIIe siècles),’ Annales: E.S.C., 25 (1970), 100-28.
- * 8. John Munro, ‘The “New Institutional Economics” and the Changing Fortunes of Fairs in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: the Textile Trades, Warfare, and Transaction Costs’, Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte, 88:1 (2001), 1 - 47.
- * 9. John Munro, ‘The Medieval Origins of the Modern Financial Revolution: Usury, *Rentes*, and Negotiability’, The International History Review, 25:3 (September 2003), 505-62.

- * 10. Edouard Perroy, 'At the Origin of a Contracted Economy: The Crises of the 14th Century,' in Rondo Cameron, ed., Essays in French Economic History (1970), pp. 91-105.
- *11. Robert Lopez and Harry Miskimin, 'The Economic Depression of the Renaissance,' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 14 (1962), 408-26.
- *12. Stuart Jenks, 'The Lay Subsidies and the State of the English Economy, 1275 - 1334,' Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte, 85:1 (1998), 1-39.
- 13. William Caferro, 'Mercenaries and Military Expenditure: The Costs of Undeclared Warfare in XIVth Century Siena,' Journal of European Economic History, 23:2 (Fall 1994), 219-47.
- *14. William P. Caferro, 'Warfare and Economy in Renaissance Italy, 1350 - 1450', Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 39:2 (Autumn 2008), 167-209.
- *15. Steven A. Epstein, An Economic and Social History of Later Medieval Europe, 1000 - 1500 (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), chapter 8, 'War and Social Unrest', pp. 233-49.
- 16. Frederic C. Lane, Venice and History: The Collected Papers of Frederic C. Lane (Baltimore, 1966): Part Three, 'The Cost of Protection,' pp. 373-430.
- 17. John Day, 'Crisis and Trends in the Later Middle Ages,' in his The Medieval Market Economy (Oxford, 1987), pp. 185-224, esp. pp. 199-218, on 'The Trade Depression.'
- 18. Stephen R. Epstein, Freedom and Growth: the Rise of States and Markets in Europe, 1300 - 1750, Routledge Explorations in Economic History no. 17 (Routledge LSE: London and New York, 2000).
- 19. Philippe Contamine, ed., War and Competition Between States: The Origins of the Modern State in Europe, 14th - 18th Centuries (New York: Clarendon Press, 2000).
- 20. Guy Bois, La grande dépression médiévale: XIVe - XVe siècles: le précédent d'une crise systémique, Actuel Marx Confrontation (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 2000).
- *21. James D. Tracy, 'Taxation and State Debt,' in Thomas A. Brady, jr., Heiko O. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, eds., Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation, Vol. I: Structures and Assertions (Leiden/New York/Cologne: E.J. Brill, 1994), pp. 563-88.
- *22. Peter Spufford, Money and Its Use in Medieval Europe (Cambridge, 1988): chapter 13, 'The Scourge of Debasement', pp. 289-318.

B. The Hundred Years' War, 1337 - 1453: Costs and Benefits

- * 1. K.B. McFarlane, 'War, the Economy, and Social Change: England and the Hundred Years' War,' Past and Present, no. 22 (July 1962), pp. 3-13, with discussion on pp. 13-18. Reprinted in K. B. McFarlane, England in the Fifteenth Century: Collected Essays (London, 1981), pp.139 - 50.
- *2. Michael Postan, 'The Costs of the Hundred Years' War,' Past and Present, no. 27 (1964), 34-53; and Michael Postan, 'Some Social Consequences of the Hundred Years' War,' Economic History Review, 1st ser., 12 (1942). Both reprinted in Michael M. Postan, Essays on Medieval Agriculture and

General Problems of the Medieval Economy (Cambridge, 1973), pp. 49-60.

3. Philippe Contamine, 'Le coût de la Guerre de Cent Ans en Angleterre,' Annales: Économies, sociétés, civilisations, 20 (1965), 788-91. A review of the McFarlane-Postan debate.
- * 4. A.R. Bridbury, 'The Hundred Years' War: Costs and Profits' in D.C. Coleman and A.H. John, eds., Trade, Government, and Economy in Pre-Industrial England (London, 1976), pp. 80 - 95.
5. James Campbell, 'England, Scotland, and the Hundred Years' War in the Fourteenth Century,' in J. Hale, R. Highfield, B. Smalley, eds., Europe in the Late Middle Ages (1965), pp. 184-216.
6. Bryce Lyon, 'The Dividends from War in the Low Countries (1338-1340)', in Jean Marie Duvosquel and Erik Thoen, eds., Peasants & Townsmen in Medieval Europe: Studia in Honorem Adriaan Verhulst, Belgisch Centrum voor Landelijk Geschiedenis nr. 114/Centre belge d'histoire rurale no. 114 (Ghent: Snoeck-Ducaju & Zoon, 1995), pp. 693-706.

QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the Maddicott-Miller-Strayer thesis concerning the impact of warfare and war-financing (taxation) on the late-medieval English economy. What segments or strata of English society came to bear the heaviest brunt of taxation in the period 1290 - 1340? Did warfare produce a 'turning-point?' for subsequent economic crises or a secular economic decline? Discuss the critical response of Bridbury.
2. What impact did government fiscal and monetary policies, in particular those related to warfare (defence and aggression), have upon the late-medieval European economies in general? What were the particular consequences of coinage debasements (in terms of the previous topic).
3. What impact did the European and Mediterranean wars from the 1290s to the 1340s have upon international commerce and shipping, and in particular on the economies of Italy, the Iberian peninsula, France, the Low Countries, and Germany.
4. What were the economic and social consequences of the Hundred Wars for western Europe (1336-1453): for England, France, the Low Countries, the Iberian peninsula, and Italy?
5. Why was Italy so chronically ravaged by warfare during the later 13th and 14th centuries; and what were the consequences for Italy's role in the Mediterranean and European economies? Discuss in particular the Wars of the Sicilian Vespers (1282-1302) and the Angevin-Aragonese and Guelf-Ghibelline Wars (1314 - 1343).
6. Did the late-medieval European economies undergo a long-term secular decline or contraction of 'depression' (or series of depressions). Is such a decline or contraction merely demographic or more than demographic, in its causes and nature? If so, what role did warfare, and war-related fiscal and monetary (coinage) policies play in that decline? In particular, discuss the Van der Wee-Peters thesis, on the disruption of the continental trade-routes as a factor in the late-medieval economic decline or contraction.