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**Economics 303Y1**

**The Economic History of Modern Europe to 1914:**

**Topic no. 9 [19]:** **Problems of the British Economy, 1870-1914:**

**The Debate About post 1870 ‘Industrial Retardation’**

For readings on the economic development of modern Europe in general, to 1914, go to section II (after the readings for Great Britain, 1870 - 1914).

Within each section, the readings are listed in the chronological order of original publication, when that can be ascertained, except for collections of essays and other readings.

\*\* and \* indicate readings of primary importance.

**READINGS**:

**I. THE BRITISH ECONOMY, 1870 - 1914**

**A. Textbooks and General Surveys on British Economic History, 1860 - 1914**:

1. John H. Clapham, Economic History of Modern Britain, Vol. II: Free Trade and Steel, 1850 - 1886 (Cambridge, 1932; republished 1963), chapter III: ‘The Course of Industrial Change’, pp. 47 - 113. A classic study.

\* 2. John H. Clapham, Economic History of Modern Britain, Vol. III: Machines and National Rivalries, 1887-1914 (Cambridge, 1938; republished 1963), chapter III: ‘The Course of Industrial Change’, pp. 121-200. A classic study also.

3. G. P. Jones and A. G. Pool, A Hundred Years of Economic Development in Great Britain, 1840-1940 (London, 1940; reprinted 1963), Part II: chapters VIII - X, pp. 167-225.

4. W. W. Rostow, The British Economy of the Nineteenth Century (Oxford, 1948; reprinted 1963).

\* 5. William Ashworth, An Economic History of England, 1870-1939 (London, 1960), Chapters 4 and 9, esp. pp. 239-64.

\* 6. Charles P. Kindleberger, Economic Growth in France and Britain, 1851-1950 (Cambridge, Mass. 1964), Chapters 6, 7, 8, 13, and 14.

7. W. H. B. Court, British Economic History, 1870-1914: Commentary and Documents (London, 1965).

8. R. S. Sayers, A History of Economic Change in England, 1880-1939 (London, 1967), Chapters 3 and 5.

9. Eric J. Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire: Pelican Economic History of Britain, Vol. III (London, 1968), Chapters 6, and 9 (‘Beginnings of Decline’), pp. 109-33, 172-94.

\*\* 10. Peter Mathias, The First Industrial Nation (London, 1969; 2nd revised edn. 1983), pp. 383-420.

\*\* 11. David Landes, The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Changes and Industrial Development in Western Europe (Cambridge, 1969), Chapter 5: ‘Short Breath and Second Wind’, esp. pp. 326-58.

12. Tom Kemp, Industrialization in Nineteenth-Century Europe (London, 1969), Chapter 7: ‘Britain, 1870-1914: A Pioneer Under Pressure’, pp. 179-200.

13. Patrick O'Brien and Caglar Keyder, Economic Growth in Britain and France, 1780-1914 (London, 1978), especially Chapter 6, ‘Industries’.

14. Peter Mathias and M.M. Postan, eds. The Cambridge Economic History of Europe, Vol. VII: The Industrial Economies: Capital, Labour, and Enterprise, Part I: Britain, France, Germany, and Scandinavia (Cambridge, 1978):

15. W. A. Lewis, Growth and Fluctuations, 1870-1913 (London, 1978).

\* 16. Roderick C. Floud and Donald N. McCloskey, eds. The Economic History of Britain Since 1700, Vol. II: 1860 to the 1970s (Cambridge, 1981).

17. M. W. Kirby, The Decline of British Economic Power Since 1870 (London, 1981).

\* 18. François Crouzet, The Victorian Economy (London, 1982).

19. R. C. O. Matthews, Charles H. Feinstein, and J. C. Odling-Smee, British Economic Growth, 1856 - 1973 (Oxford, 1982).

\* 20. Bernard Elbaum and William Lazonick, eds. The Decline of the British Economy (New York, 1986).

\* 21. Sidney Pollard, Britain's Prime and Britain's Decline: The British Economy, 1870 - 1914 (New York: Edward Arnold, 1989).

22. François Crouzet, Britain Ascendant: Comparative Studies in British and Franco-British Economic History, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. A revised version and translation of his De la supériorité de l'Angleterre sur la France: l'économique et l'imaginaire, XVIIe - XXe siècle (Paris, 1985).

23. J.J. Van Helten and Y. Cassis, eds., Capitalism in a Mature Economy: Financial Institutions, Capital Exports, and British Industry, 1870 - 1939 (Elgar: Aldcroft, 1990).

24. N.F.R. Crafts, S. L. Leybourne, and T. C. Mills, ‘Britain’, in Richard Sylla and Gianni Toniolo, eds., Patterns of European Industrialisation: the Nineteenth Century (London: Routledge, 1991), pp. 109-52

25. James Foreman-Peck, ed., New Perspectives on the Late Victorian Economy: Essays in Quantitative Economic History, 1860 - 1914, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

a) James Foreman-Peck, ‘Quantitative Analysis of the Victorian Economy’, pp. 1-34.

b) John Cantwell, ‘Railways and late Victorian Economic Growth’, p.. 73-95.

c) Robert Millward, ‘Emergence of Gas and Water Monopolies in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Contested Markets and Public Control’, pp. 96-124.

d) Stephen Nicholas, ‘The Expansion of British Multinational Companies: Testing for Managerial Failure’, pp. 125-46.

e) Charles Feinstein, ‘A New Look at the Cost of Living, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 151-79.

f) Humphrey Southall, ‘Poor Law Statistics and the Geography of Economic Distress’, pp. 180-217.

g) John G. Treble, ‘Perfect Equilibrium Down the Pit’, pp. 218-48.

h) Forrest H. Capie, Terence C. Mills, and Geoffrey Wood, ‘Money, Interest Rates and the Great Depression: Britain from 1870 to 1913’, pp. 249 - 284.

i) Paul Turner, ‘The UK Demand for Money, Commercial Bills and Quasi-Money Assets, 1871 - 1913’, p. 285 - 304.

j) Tessa Ogden, ‘An Analysis of Bank of England Discount and Advance Behaviour, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 305 - 43.

26. S. N. Broadberry and N. F. R. Crafts, eds., Britain in the International Economy, 1870 - 1939, Studies in Monetary and Financial History (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

a) S.N. Broadberry and N.F.R. Crafts, ‘British Macroeconomic History, 1870 - 1939: Overview and Key Issues’, pp. 1 - 27.

b) Terence C. Mills, ‘An Economic Historian’s Introduction to Modern Time Series Techniques in Econometrics’, pp. 28 - 48.

c) Barry Eichengreen, ‘The Gold Standard Since Alec Ford’, pp. 49-79.

d) Forrest Capie, ‘British Economic Fluctuations in the Nineteenth Century: Is There a Role for Money?’, pp. 80-97.

e) N.F.R. Crafts and Terence C. Mills, ‘British Economic Fluctuations, 1851 - 1913: A Perspective Based on Growth Theory’, pp. 98-136.

f) T.J. Hatton, ‘Price-Determination Under the Gold Standard: Britain, 1880 - 1913’, pp. 137-56.

g) Neil Blake, ‘Import Prices, Economic Activity and the General Price Level in the UK, 1870 - 1913’, pp. 157-98.

h) T.C. Mills and G.E. Wood, ‘Money and Interest Rates in Britain from 1870 to 1913’, pp. 199-220.

i) P.L. Cottrell, ‘Silver, Gold and the International Monetary Order, 1851-96’, pp. 221-43.

j) C.K Harley, ‘The World Food Economy and pre-World War I Argentina’, pp. 244-70.

j) M. Thomas, ‘Institutional Rigidity in the British Labour Market, 1870 - 1939: a Comparative Perspective’, pp. 271-315.

27. Roderick Floud and Donald McCloskey, eds., The Economic History of Britain Since 1700, 3 vols., 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), Vol. 2: 1860 - 1939

a) Roderick Floud, ‘Britain, 1860 - 1914: A Survey’, pp. 1-28.

b) Dudley Baines, ‘Population, Migration and Regional Development, 1870 - 1939’, pp. 29-61.

c) Sidney Pollard, ‘Entrepreneurship, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 62-89.

d) William Lazonick, ‘Employment Relations in Manufacturing and International Competition’, pp. 90-116.

e) Clive Lee, ‘The Service Industries’, p. 117-44.

f) Cormac O' Grada, ‘British Agriculture, 1860 - 1914’, pp. 145-72.

g) Michael Edelstein, ‘Foreign Investment and Accumulation, 1860 - 1914’, pp. 173-96.

h) Michael Edelstein, ‘Imperialism: Cost and Benefit’, pp. 197-216.

i) Forest Capie and Geoffrey Wood, ‘Money in the Economy, 1870 - 1939’, pp. 217-46.

j) Solomos Solomou, ‘Economic Fluctuations, 1870 - 1913’, pp. 247-64.

k) Mary MacKinnon, ‘Living Standards, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 265-90.

l) Barry Eichengreen, ‘The Inter-War Economy in a European Mirror’, pp. 291-319.

m) Mark Thomas, ‘The Macro-Economics of the Inter-War Years’, pp. 320-58.

n) Tim Hatton, ‘Unemployment and the Labour Market in Inter-War Britain’, pp. 359-85.

o) James Foreman-Peck, ‘Industry and Industrial Organisation in the Inter-War Years’, pp. 386-414.

28. Cormac Ó Gráda, Ireland: A New Economic History, 1780 - 1939 (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1994).

29. B.W.E. Alford, Britain in the World Economy Since 1880 (Harlow: Longman, 1996).

30. Sean Glynn and Alan Booth, Modern Britain: An Economic and Social History (London and New York: Routledge, 1996).

31. Roger Middleton, Government versus the Market: The Growth of the Public Sector, Economic Management, and British Economic Performance, c.1890 - 1979 (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 1996).

32. Roderick Floud, The People and the British Economy, 1830 - 1914 (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).

33. E.A. Wasson, ‘The Penetration of New Wealth into the English Governing Class from the Middle Ages to the First World War’, The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 51:1 (February 1998), 25-48.

34. G. R. Searle, Morality and the Market in Victorian Britain (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1998).

35. Roger Lloyd-Jones and M.J. Lewis, British Industrial Capitalism Since the Industrial Revolution (London: University College London Press, 1998).

36. Richard Price, British Society, 1680 - 1880 (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

37. Peter T. Marsh, Bargaining on Europe: Britain and the First Common Market, 1860-1892 (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999).

38. Michael Lavalette, ed., A Thing of the Past? Child Labour in Britain in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1999).

39. Jonathan Schneeer, London 1900: The Imperial Metropolis (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999).

40. Sidney Pollard, Labour History and the Labour Movement in Britain (Aldershot: Ashgate, 1999).

41. Roy Douglas, Taxation in Britain Since 1660 (London: MacMillan, 1999).

42. Katrina Honeyman, Women, Gender and Industrialisation in England, 1700 - 1870 (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2000).

43. Eric Hopkins, Industrialisation and Society: A Social History, 1830 - 1951 (London: Routledge, 2000).

44. Roger Lloyd-Jones and M.J. Lewis, ‘The Long Wave and Turning Points in British Industrial Capitalism: a Neo-Schumpeterian Approach’, The Journal of European Economic History, 29:2-3 (Fall - Winter 2000), 359-401.

45. Stephen Heathorn, For Home, Country, and Race: Constructing Gender, Class, and Englishness in the Elementary School, 1884 - 1914 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000).

46. Ian Inkster, Colin Griffin, Jeff Hill, and Judith Rowbotham, eds., The Golden Age: Essays in British Social and Economic History, 1850 - 1870 (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000).

47. Arthur J. McIvor, A History of Work in Britain, 1800 - 1950 (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001).

48. Michael Ball and David Sunderland, An Economic History of London, 1800 - 1914 (London and New York: Routledge, 2001).

49. Geoffrey Channon, Railways in Britain and the United States, 1830 - 1940 (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2001).

50. Martin Daunton, ed., The Cambridge Urban History of Britain, vol. III: 1840 - 1950 (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

51. Martin Daunton, Trusting Leviathan: The Politics of Taxation in Britain, 1799 - 1914 (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

52. Gregory Clark, ‘Shelter from the Storm: Housing and the Industrial Revolution, 1550 - 1909', Journal of Economic History, 62:2 (June 2002), 489-511.

53. Donald Winch and Patrick K. O’Brien, eds., The Political Economy of British Historical Experience, 1688 - 1914, The British Academy (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).

\* 54. Niall Ferguson, Empire: the Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power (New York: Perseus Books, 2002).

55. Chris Wrigley, ed., A Companion to Early Twentieth-Century Britain (Oxford: Blackwell, 2003).

\* 56. Roderick Floud and Paul Johnson, eds., Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain, 3 vols. (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Vol I: Industrialization, 1700 - 1860

a) Joel Mokyr, ‘Accounting for the Industrial Revolution’, pp. 1-27

b) Pat Hudson, ‘ Industrial Organsiation and Structure’, pp. 28-56

c) E. A. Wrigley, ‘British Population during the “Long” Eighteenth Century, 1680 - 1840’, pp. 67-95.

d) Robert Allen, ‘Agriculture during the Industrial Revolution, 1700 - 1850’, pp. 96-116

e) Kristine Bruland, ‘Industrialisation and Technological Change’, pp. 117-46.

f) Stephen Quinn, ‘Money, Finance, and Capital Markets’, pp. 147 -74.

g) C. Knick Harley, ‘Trade: Discovery, Mercantilism and Technology’, pp. 175-203.

h) Ron Harris, ‘Goverhment and the Economy, 1688 - 1850’, pp. 204-37.

i) Jane Humphries, ‘Household Economy’, pp. 238-67.

j) Hans-Joachim Voth, ‘Living Standards and the Urban Environment’, pp. 268-94.

k) Simon Ville, ‘Transport’, pp. 295-331.

l) David Mitch, ‘Education and the Skill of the British Labour Force’, pp. 332-56.

m) Maxine Berg, ‘Consumption in Eighteenth- and early Nineteenth-Century Britain’, pp. 357-87.

n) T. M. Devine, ‘Scotland’, pp. 388-416.

o) Roger Burt, ‘The Extractive Industries’, pp. 417-50.

p) Stanley Engerman and Patrick O’Brien, ‘The Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective’, pp. 451-64.

Vol. II: Economic Maturity, 1860 - 1939

a) Nicholas Crafts, ‘Long-Run Growth’, pp. 1 - 24.

b) Dudley Baines and Robert Woods’, Population and Regional Development’, pp. 25 - 55.

c) Stephen Broadberry, ‘Human Capital and Skills’, pp. 56-73.

d) Gary B. Magee, ‘Manufacturing and Technological Change, pp. 74- 98.

e) Mark Thomas, ‘The Service Sector’, pp. 99-133.

f) Michael Turner, ‘Agriculture, 1860 - 1914’, pp. 133-60.

g) C. Knick Harley, ‘Trade, 1870 - 1939: From Globalisation to Fragmentation’, pp. 161-89.

h) Michael Edelstein, ‘Foreign Investment, Accumulation, and Empire, 1860 - 1914’, pp. 190 - 226.

i) Tom Nicholas, ‘Enterprise and Management’, pp. 227-52.

j) P. A. Cottrell, ‘Domestic Finance, 1860 - 1914’, pp. 253-79.

k) George Boyer, ‘Living Standards, 1860 - 1939’, pp. 280-313.

l) Barry Eichengreen, ‘The British Economy Between the Wars’, pp. 314-43.

m) Timothy Hatton, ‘Unemployment and the Labour Market, 1870 - 1939’, pp. 344-73.

n) Sue Bowden and David Higgins, ‘British Industry in the Inter-War Years’, pp. 373-402.

o) Duncan Ross, ‘Industrial and Commercial Finance in the Interwar Years’, pp. 403-27.

p) Clive Lee, ‘Scotland, 1860 - 1939: Growth and Poverty’, pp. 428-55.

q) Roger Middleton, ‘Government and the Economy, 1860 - 1939’, pp. 456-89.

Vol. III: Structural Changes and Growth, 1939 - 2000.

57. G.R. Searle, A New England? Peace and War, 1886 - 1918 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2004).

58. Brenda Collins, Philip Ollersenshaw, and Trevor Parkill, eds., Industry, Trade and People in Ireland, 1650 - 1950: Essays in Honour of W. H. Crawford (Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2005).

59. Peter Scott, Triumph of the South: a Regional Economic History of Early Twentieth Century Britain (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007).

60. Martin Daunton, State and Market in Victorian Britain: War, Welfare, and Capitalism (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2008).

61. Frank Trentmann, Free Trade Nation: Commerce, Consumption and Civil Society in Modern Britain (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

\*\* 62. Stephen Broadberry and Kevin H. O’Rourke, eds., The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe, 2 vols. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010): Vol. II: 1870 to the Present

a) Guillaume Daudin, Matthias Morys, and Kevin H. O’Rourke, ‘Globalization, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 5-29

b) Albert Carreras and Camilla Josephson, ‘Aggregate Growth, 1870 - 1914: Growing at the Production Frontier’, pp. 30-58.

c) Stephen Broadberry, Giovanni Federico, and Alexander Klein, ‘Sectoral Developments, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 59-83.

d) Marc Flandreau, Juan Flores, Clemens Jobst, and David Koudour-Casteras, ‘Business Cycles, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 84-108.

e) Carol Leonard and Jonas Ljungberg, ‘Population and Living Standards, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 108-29.

\*\* 63. Patrick O’Brien and Caglar Keyder, Economic Growth in Britain and France, 1780 - 1914 (London: Routledge, 1978; revised edn., London, 2011).

**C. The Debate in General: about British ‘Industrial Retardation’, the ‘Great Depression’ (1873 - 1896), and ‘British Economic Decline’, ca. 1870 - 1914**

1. John H. Clapham, Economic History of Modern Britain, Vol. II: Free Trade and Steel, 1850 - 1886 (Cambridge, 1932; republished 1963), chapter III: ‘The Course of Industrial Change’, pp. 47 - 113. A classic study.

\*\* 2. H. L. Beales, ‘The `Great Depression' in Industry and Trade’, Economic History Review, 1st ser. 5 (1934), reprinted in E.M. Carus-Wilson, ed., Essays in Economic History, Vol. I (London, 1954), pp. 406-15. Despite its age, written more than half a century ago, it still has interesting comments to make on this debate.

\* 3. John H. Clapham, Economic History of Modern Britain, Vol. III: Machines and National Rivalries, 1887-1914 (Cambridge, 1938; republished 1963), chapter III: ‘The Course of Industrial Change’, pp. 121-200. A classic study also.

4. G.P. Jones and A.G. Pool, A Hundred Years of Economic Development in Great Britain, 1840-1940 (London, 1940; reprinted 1963), Part II: chapters VIII and IX.

\* 5. W. W. Rostow, The British Economy of the Nineteenth Century (Oxford, 1948; reprinted 1963). Very controversial; in part rather dated, but still quite important:

\* (a) Chapter 1, ‘Trends in the British Economy, 1790-1914’, pp. 7-30. [Reprinted in Barry Supple, ed., The Experience of Economic Growth: Case Studies in Economic History (New York, 1963), pp. 189 - 202.]

\* (b) Chapter 2, ‘Cycles in the British Economy, 1790-1914’, pp. 31-57. [Reprinted in Derek Aldcroft and Peter Fearon, eds., British Economic Fluctuations, 1790 - 1939 (London, 1972), pp. 74 - 96.

(c) Chapter 3, ‘Investment and the Great Depression’, pp. 58-89.

\* (d) Chapter 7, ‘Explanations of the Great Depression’, pp. 145-60.

(e) Chapter 9, ‘The Depression of the Seventies: 1874-79’, pp. 179-225.

6. J. S. Pesmazoglu, ‘Some International Aspects of British Cyclical Fluctuations, 1870 - 1913’, Review of Economic Studies, 16 (1949-50), 117 - 43.

7. Jan Tinbergen, Business Cycles in the United Kingdom, 1870-1914 (1951).

8. E. H. Phelps Brown and S.J. Handfield-Jones, ‘The Climacteric of the 1890s: A Study in the Expanding Economy’, Oxford Economic Papers, new series, 4 (October 1952), 279 - 89. Republished in:

a) Barry Supple, ed., The Experience of Economic Growth: Case Studies in Economic History (New York, 1963), pp. 205 - 16 (with omissions, but also with Supple's introduction, pp. 203-04).

b) Henry Phelps Brown and Sheila Hopkins, eds., A Perspective of Wages and Prices (London, 1981), pp. 131 - 72.

9. E. H. Phelps Brown and P. E. Hart, ‘The Share of Wages in National Income’, Economic Journal, 62:246 (June 1952); reprinted in Henry Phelps Brown and Sheila Hopkins, eds., A Perspective of Wages and Prices (London, 1981), pp. 106 - 30.

10. G. M. Meier, ‘Long-Period Determinants of Britain's Terms of Trade: 1880-1913’, Review of Economic Studies, 20 (1952-53).

11. E. H. Phelps Brown and B. Weber, ‘Accumulation, Productivity, and Distribution in the British Economy, 1870-1938’, Economic Journal, 63 (1953), reprinted in E.M. Carus-Wilson, ed., Essays in Economic History, Vol. III (1962), pp. 280-301.

12. E. H. Phelps Brown and S. A. Ozga, ‘Economic Growth and the Price Level, ‘ Economic Journal, 65 (March 1955), republished in Henry Phelps Brown and Sheila Hopkins, eds., A Perspective of Wages and Prices (London, 1981), pp. 173 - 90.

13. W. A. Lewis and P. J. O'Leary, ‘Secular Swings in Production and Trade’, The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies, 23 (1955).

14. D. J. Coppock, ‘The Climacteric of the 1890's: A Critical Note’, The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies, 24 (January 1956), 1-31. Republished in part (pp. 21-31 only), under the title ‘The Climacteric of the 1870's’, in Barry Supple, ed., The Experience of Economic Growth: Case Studies in Economic History (New York, 1963), pp. 217 - 25 (with Supple's introduction, pp. 203-04).

15. D. J. Coppock, ‘The Causes of Business Fluctuations, 1870-1914’, Transactions of the Manchester Statistical Society (1959); reprinted in Derek Aldcroft and Peter Fearon, eds., British Economic Fluctuations, 1790-1939 (London: MacMillan, 1972), pp. 188 - 219.

\* 16. A. E. Musson, ‘The Great Depression in Britain, 1873-1896: A Re-Appraisal’, Journal of Economic History, 19 (1959).

17. William Ashworth, An Economic History of England, 1870-1939 (London, 1960), chapters IV and X, especially pp. 239-64.

18. E. W. Cooney, ‘Long Waves in Building in the British Economy of the Nineteenth Century’, Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 13 (1960 - 61); reprinted in Derek Aldcroft and Peter Fearon, eds., British Economic Fluctuations, 1790-1939 (London, MacMillan, 1972), pp. 220 - 35.

19. J. Saville, ‘Some Retarding Factors in the British Economy Before 1914’, Yorkshire Bulletin of Economic and Social Research, 13 (1961).

20. D. J. Coppock, ‘The Causes of the Great Depression, 1873-1896’, The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies, 29 (1961).

21. H. J. Habakkuk, ‘Fluctuations in House-Building in Britain and the United States in the Nineteenth Century’, The Journal of Economic History, 22 (1962); reprinted in A. R. Hall, ed., , The Export of Capital from Britain, 1870 - 1914 (London: Methuen, 1968), pp. 103 - 42; and also in Derek Aldcroft and Peter Fearon, eds., British Economic Fluctuations, 1790-1939 (London, MacMillan, 1972), pp. 236 - 67.

22. J. Saville, ‘Mr. Coppock on the ‘Great Depression’: A Critical Note’, and: D. J. Coppock, ‘Mr Saville on the Great Depression: A Reply’, both in: The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies, 31 (1963).

\* 23. Maurice Dobb, ‘The Great Depression’, in his Studies in the Development of Capitalism, revised edn. (London, 1963), pp. 300-19; reprinted in edited form, in David Landes, ed., The Rise of Capitalism (1965), pp. 130-9. A Marxist viewpoint.

24. A. E. Musson, ‘British Industrial Growth during the Great Depression, 1873-96: Comments’, Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 15 (1963), 529 - .

25. D.J. Coppock, ‘British Industrial Growth During the `Great Depression': A Pessimist’s View’, Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 17 (December 1964), 389-96.

26. A. E. Musson, ‘British Industrial Growth, 1873-1896: A Balanced View’, Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 17 (December 1964), 397 - 403.

\* 27. Charles P. Kindleberger, Economic Growth in France and Britain, 1851-1950 (Cambridge, Mass. 1964), chapter 6, ‘Entrepreneurship’; chapter 7, ‘Technology’; and chapter 8, ‘Scale and Competition’. See also chapters 13-14.

28. William Ashworth, ‘Changes in the Industrial Structure, 1870-1914’, Yorkshire Bulletin of Economic and Social Research, 17 (1965).

29. H. W. Richardson, ‘Retardation in Britain's Industrial Growth, 1870-1913’, The Scottish Journal of Political Economy, 12 (1965); reprinted in Derek Aldcroft and H.W. Richardson, eds., The British Economy, 1870-1939 (London, 1969), pp. 101 - 25.

\* 30. Charles Wilson, ‘Economy and Society in Late Victorian Britain’, Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 18 (1965), 183-97; reprinted in Charles Wilson, Economic History and the Historian: Collected Essays (London: 1969), pp. 178-200.

\* 31. W.H.B. Court, ed., British Economic History, 1870-1914: Commentary and Documents (Cambridge, 1965), Part I: chapter 3, ‘Old Industries and New’, pp. 78-176. Most of this consists of documents: but read at least the introductory commentary, pp. 78-88.

32. William Ashworth, ‘The Late Victorian Economy’, Economica, new ser. 33 (1966).

33. D. H. Aldcroft, ‘The Problem of Productivity in British Industry, 1870-1914’, La Scuola in Azione, 5 (1967); reprinted in Derek Aldcroft and H.W. Richardson, eds., The British Economy, 1870-1939 (London, 1969), pp. 126 - 40.

34. A. J. Levine, Industrial Retardation in Britain, 1880-1914 (London, 1967).

35. R. S. Sayers, A History of Economic Change in England, 1880-1939 (London, 1967), chapters 3 and 5.

36. E. J. Hobsbawm, Industry and Empire (Pelican Economic History of Britain, Vol. III, London, 1968), chapter 6, ‘Industrialization: the Second Phase, 1840-1895’, pp. 109-33; chapter 9, ‘The Beginnings of Decline’, pp. 172-94.

37. Derek Aldcroft, ed., Development of British Industry and Foreign Competition, 1875-1914 (1968). Various essays.

\* 38. Derek Aldcroft and H.W. Richardson, eds., The British Economy, 1870-1939 (London, 1969). Read the introduction, pp. 3 - 100, especially on ‘The Business Cycle’, pp. 23-60, while ignoring the post-1914 sections; and read especially the following essays:

(a) H. W. Richardson, ‘Retardation in Britain’s Industrial Growth, 1870-1913’, pp. 101 - 25. [Reprinted from The Scottish Journal of Political Economy, 12 (1965).]

(b) D. H. Aldcroft, ‘The Problem of Productivity in British Industry, 1870-1914’, pp. 126 - 40. [Reprinted from La Scuola in Azione, 5 (1967).]

(c) Derek Aldcroft, ‘The Entrepreneur and the British Economy, 1870 - 1914’, pp. 141 - 67. [Reprinted from Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 17 (August 1964), 113 - 34.]

(d) D. H. Aldcroft, ‘Technical Progress and British Enterprise, 1875-1914’, pp. 168 - 89. [Reprinted from Business History, 8 (1966).]

39. A. G. Ford, ‘British Economic Fluctuations, 1870-1914’, The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies, 37 (1969); reprinted in Derek Aldcroft and Peter Fearon, eds., British Economic Fluctuations, 1790-1939 (London, MacMillan, 1972), pp. 131 - 60.

40. Tom Kemp, Industrialization in Nineteenth-Century Europe (London, 1969), chapter 7: ‘Britain, 1870-1914: A Pioneer Under Pressure’, pp. 179-200.

\*\* 41. S. B. Saul, The Myth of the Great Depression, 1873 - 1896, Studies in Economic and Social History Series (London: MacMillan, 1969; 2nd revised edition, 1985), pp. 9 - 55.

\*\* 42. David Landes, The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 (Cambridge, 1969), chapter 5: ‘Short Breath and Second Wind’, pp. 326-58.

\* 43. Peter Mathias, The First Industrial Nation (London, 1969; revised 2nd edn. 1983), chapter 15, pp. 351-97.

\* 44. Donald N. McCloskey, ed., Essays on a Mature Economy: Britain After 1840 (Princeton, 1971):

(a) Brinley Thomas, ‘Demographic Determinants of British and American Building Cycles, 1870-1913’, pp. 39-74.

(b) Michael Edelstein, ‘Rigidity and Bias in the British Capital Market, 1870-1913’, pp. 83-105.

(c) Charles K. Harley, ‘The Shift from Sailing Ships to Steamships, 1850-1890: A Study in Technological Change and its Diffusion’, pp. 215-34.

(d) Peter Lindert and Keith Trace, ‘Yardsticks for Victorian Entrepreneurs’, pp. 239-74.

(e) Donald McCloskey, ‘International Differences in Productivity? Coal and Steel in American and Britain Before World War I’, pp. 285-304.

(f) Roderick Floud, ‘Changes in the Productivity of Labour in the British Machine Tool Industry, 1856-1900’, pp. 313-37.

(g) Wray Vamplew, ‘Nihilistic Impressions of British Railway History’, pp. 345 - 66.

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**F**. **Comparisons of British Enterprise and Technology with Continental European and American Enterprise and Technology**

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**QUESTIONS for reading, discussion, and essays**

1. Did Great Britain lose industrial hegemony after ca. 1870: how and why ? In what industrial fields in particular did Britain lose her leadership to Germany and the U.S.? In which did she retain it? In what industrial fields did Britain advance?

2. Did British industry undergo a phase of ‘retardation’ from 1870 to 1914, or from 1895 - 1914? Did British industry and the British economy in general suffer then from serious structural defects? Or were the difficulties experienced by British industry in this period due to foreign factors beyond British control?

3. More specifically, can British industry be criticized for ‘failures’ in technological innovation (or the adaptation of new technologies), productivity, and especially entrepreneurship? Compare in particular the nature and structure of business and industrial organization in Great Britain and Germany in this period.

4. What other problems did certain and various British industries face in this period: domestic and foreign? Why were they not resolved? Was there a general ‘depression’ from 1873 to 1896?

5. Can Britain's ‘failures’ be attributed to her educational systems, cultural values, and social structure?

6. On the other hand, what is the evidence for industrial innovation and economic growth in this period? How did Britain fare in the so-called New Industries (in both the manufacturing and distribution of consumer goods)?

7. Did Great Britain prosper in the era 1870-1914? In particular how did the British working classes fare in this period? Discuss this question also in terms of the previous question on the ‘consumer goods revolution.’

8. Discuss the influence of foreign trade and overseas capital investments on the changing structure of British industry in the period 1870-1914. What factors determined whether capital would be invested at home or abroad in this period?

9. Why did the agricultural sector experience a severe contraction in this period, 1870-1914? Was that contraction harmful or beneficial for the British economy as a whole?

10. Examine the advances and setbacks, achievements and failures in the following British industries from 1870 to 1914: iron, coal, and steel; cottons and woollens; shipbuilding and marine engineering; chemical (coal-based, petroleum-based, wood-based); electrical; consumer goods; automobilies; etc.

11. On balance, what is your view of the performance of the British economy, relative to that of the German and American economies, in this period?

12. Explain the course of prices from (a) 1873 to 1896, and (b) 1896 to 1914: were the major factors causing first deflation and then inflation monetary or real? Were the real factors essentially technological? What bearing do the price movements have upon the debate concerning the performance of British industry in this era? Explain the behaviour of interest rates in relation to: (a) movements in the price level; (b) the performance of the British economy.

**Table 1. CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, IN THE BRITISH ECONOMY, 1870-4 TO 1910-14**

**Net Domestic Capital Formation and Net Foreign Investments,**

**in Millions of Pounds Sterling, Current Values,**

**and as Percentages of Net National Product:**

**Quinquennial Means, 1870 - 1914**

**Period Net Net N.D.C.F. Net N.F.I. Total**

**National Domestic as % Foreign as % Investment**

**Product Capital of Invest- of as % of**

**in Formation NNP ment in NNP NNP**

**Millions Millions Millions**

**£ £ £**

**1870-4** 1,020.6 26.6 2.6% 78.4 7.7% 10.3%

**1875-9** 1,036.8 48.6 4.7% 30.4 2.9% 7.6%

**1880-4** 1,080.8 32.4 3.0% 54.6 5.1% 8.0%

**1885-9** 1,153.4 14.2 1.2% 80.4 7.0% 8.2%

**1890-4** 1,307.4 29.0 2.2% 69.8 5.3% 7.5%

**1895-9** 1,503.8 66.8 4.4% 44.4 3.0% 7.4%

**1900-4** 1,671.6 109.2 6.5% 34.4 2.1% 8.6%

**1905-9** 1,833.0 57.4 3.1% 132.6 7.2% 10.4%

**1910-4** 2,107.4 36.0 1.7% 190.0 9.0% 10.7%

**Source:**  Charles H. Feinstein, *Statistical Tables of National Income, Expenditure and Output of the U.K., 1855-1965* (Cambridge, 1976), pp. T-4, 5, T-37, 38; T-106, 107.

**Table 2. NET CAPITAL FORMATION (DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN) AS A PERCENTAGE OF NET NATIONAL PRODUCT IN GERMANY**

**AND THE U.K.: 1860-1910**

**Decade Germany U.K. U.K.**

**(Mitchell (Kuznets (Feinstein**

**1975) 1961) 1976)**

**1860-9** 11.9% 10.0% -

**1870-9** 12.1% 11.8% 8.9%

**1880-9** 11.1% 10.9% 8.1%

**1890-9** 13.6% 10.1% 7.5%

**1900-9** 14.4% 11.7% 9.5%

**Table 3.** **UNITED KINGDOM**

**AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES (% per annum)**

**Period Manufacturing Gross Domestic Product**

**& Mining (1907 Prices)**

**1853-1873** 2.7% 1.95%

**1873-1883** 2.2% 1.90%

**1883-1899** 2.1% 1.85%

**1899-1913** 2.0% 1.70%

**Source:** W.A. Lewis, *Growth and Fluctuations, 1870-1913* (London, 1978)

**Table 4.** **AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF REAL GROWTH**

**IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1855 - 1913**

**Period No. Total Real Gross Domestic Product**

**Years Industrial at Constant Factor Prices**

**Output (at (from output data)**

**constant**

**prices)**

**1855-69** 15 2.08% 1.63%

**1870-84** 15 2.04% 1.71%

**1885-99** 15 2.91% 2.14%

**1900-13** 14 1.60% 1.64%

**1855-1913** 59 2.29% 1.87%

**1870-1913** 44 2.09% 1.82%

**Source:** Charles Feinstein, *Statistical Tables of National Income, Expenditure, and Output of the United Kingdom, 1855-1965* (1976)

**Table 5. AGGREGATE AND PER CAPITA INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL**

**PRODUCTION (UNITED KINGDOM IN 1900 = 100), AND PERCENTAGE**

**SHARES OF WORLD INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, FOR VARIOUS**

**COUNTRIES: IN 1860 AND 1913**

**Country Total Per Capita Percentage Shares of**

**Industrial Industrial World Industrial**

**Output Output Production**

**With 1913 1860 1913 1860 1913 1860 1913**

**Frontiers Index Index Index Index % %**

United

Kingdom\* 45 127 64 115 20% 14%

Germany 11 138 15 85 5% 15%

France 18 57 20 59 8% 6%

Russia 16 77 8 20 7% 8%

**ALL EUROPE 120 528 17 45 53% 57%**

United

States 16 298 21 126 7% 32%

Canada 1 9 7 46 -- 1%

**Source:** Paul Bairoch, ‘International Industrialization Levels from 1760 to 1980’, *Journal of European Economic History*, 11 (Fall 1982), 269-333, tables 4 - 13.

\* The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: the values for its aggregate and per capita industrial outputs for 1900 are taken as the base 100 for all the indices in columns 1 to 4. Note that columns 5 and 6 are percentages of total world industrial output.

**Table 6. INDICES OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT\*: IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, GERMANY, AND THE UNITED STATES IN QUINQUENNIAL MEANS, 1860-4 TO 1910-13**

**MEAN OF 1870-4 = 100**

**Period United France Germany United**

**Kingdom States**

**1860-64** 72.6

**1865-69** 82.8 95.8 72.6 75.5

**1870-74** 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0

**1875-79** 105.5 109.5 120.8 111.4

**1880-84** 123.4 126.6 160.6 170.4

**1885-89** 129.5 130.3 194.9 214.9

**1890-94** 144.2 151.5 240.6 266.4

**1895-99** 167.4 167.8 306.4 314.2

**1900-04** 181.1 176.1 354.3 445.7

**1905-09** 201.1 206.2 437.4 570.0

**1910-13** 219.5 250.2 539.5 674.9

\* Excluding construction, but including building materials.

**Source:**  W. Arthur Lewis, *Growth and Fluctuations, 1870 - 1913* (London, 1978), pp. 248-50, 269, 271, 273.

**Table 7. REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER WORKER**

**IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1856 - 1913**

**Average Annual Percentage Rates of Growth**

**Period Income Expenditure Output**

**1856** - **1873** 1.32 1.38 1.12

**1873** - **1882** 0.90 1.03 1.20

**1882** - **18** **99** 1.49 1.27 0.85

**1899** - **1913** 0.09 0.33 0.72

...................................................................

**1856 - 1882** 1.18 1.26 1.15

**1882 - 1913** 0.86 0.84 0.79

**1856 - 1913** 1.01 1.03 0.95

.................................................................

**Source:** Charles Feinstein, ‘What Really Happened to Real Wages: Trends in Wages, Prices, and Productivity in the United Kingdom, 1880 - 1913’, *Economic History Review*, 2nd ser. 43 (August 1990).

**Table 8. PER CAPITA PRODUCT IN SELECTED**

**EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, 1850 - 1910:**

**Measured in Constant 1970 U.S. Dollars**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTRY** | **1850** | **1870** | **1890** | **1910** | **Percent-**  **age Total**  **Growth**  **1850-1910** |
| **BRITAIN** | 660 | 904 | 1,130 | 1,302 | 197% |
| **FRANCE** | 432 | 567 | 668 | 883 | 204% |
| **GERMANY** | 418 | 579 | 729 | 958 | 229% |
| **BELGIUM** | 534 | 738 | 932 | 1,110 | 208% |
| **NETHER-LANDS** | 481 | 591 | 768 | 952 | 198% |

**Source:** Nicholas Crafts, ‘Gross National Product in Europe, 1870 - 1910: Some New Estimates’, *Explorations in Economic History*, 20 (October 1983), 387-401.

**Table 9.**

**INDICES OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY**

**FROM 1810 TO 1910**

**Annual net output per agricultural worker (male)**

**measured in million of calories**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTRY** | **1810** | **1840** | **1860** | **1880** | **1900** | **1910** |
| **Britain** | 14.0 | 17.5 | 20.0 | 23.5 | 22.5 | 23.5 |
| **France** | 7.0 | 11.5 | 14.5 | 14.0 | 15.5 | 17.0 |
| **Germany** |  | 7.5 | 10.5 | 14.5 | 22.0 | 25.0 |
| **Russia** |  | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 11.0 |
| **U.S.A.** |  | 21.5 | 22.5 | 29.0 | 31.0 | 42 |

**Source:** Paul Bairoch, ‘Niveaux de développement économique de 1810 à 1910’, *Annales: Économies, sociétés, civilisations*, 20 (1965), 1096, Table 1.

**Table 10. BANK RESOURCES AS A PERCENTAGE OF NET NATIONAL INCOME**

**COUNTRY YEAR PERCENTAGE OF NNI**

**FRANCE** 1870 16%

**ENGLAND** 1844 34%

**BELGIUM** 1875 42%

**PRUSSIA** 1865 31%

**RUSSIA** 1910 61%

**U.S.A.**  1871 30%

**Table 11. FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENTS OF THE CHIEF LENDERS**

**expressed in millions of current American dollars**

**COUNTRY 1870 1910 1914 % of 1914**

U.K. 4,900 12,000 20,000 44.0%

FRANCE 2,500 5,800 9,050 19.9%

GERMANY 4,800 5,800 12.8%

U.S. 100 500 3,500 7.8%

OTHER 500 1,100 7,100 18.6%

**TOTAL 45,450 100.0%**

**Source:** Sidney Pollard, ‘Capital Exports, 1870 - 1914’, *Economic History Review*, 2nd ser., 38 (November 1985).

**Table 12.** **Railway Mileage Open at Decennial Intervals, 1840 - 1914 in Britain, Belgium, France, Germany, and Russia**\*

**Year Britain Belgium France Germany Russia**

**1840** 1,485 208 309 291 17

**1850** 6,084 561 1,811 3,639 311

**1860** 9,069 1,075 5,696 6,890 1,010

**1870** 13,388 1,800 10,231 11,729 6,668

**1880** 15,563 2,555 14,347a 21,026b 14,208

**1890** 17,281 2,812 20,679 26,638 19,011

**1900** 18,680 2,853 23,680 32,111 33,078

**1910** 19,986 2,907 25,156 38,033 41,372

**1913** 20,266 n.a. 25,333 39,381 43,593

\* Mileage for continental countries converted from kilometres, at ratio of 1 km. = 0.6214 miles.

a. Excluding Alsace-Lorraine: ceded to Germany in 1871

b. Including Alsace-Lorraine: acquired from France in 1871

**Sources:** B.R. Mitchell and Phyllis Deane, Abstract of British Historical Statistics (Cambridge, 1962), pp. 225-26.

Carlo Cipolla, ed., *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, Vol. IV:2, *The Emergence of Industrial Societies* (London, 1973), pp. 790, 794.

**Table 13. OUTPUT OF COAL IN MILLIONS OF METRIC TONS: FOR SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, DECENNIAL MEANS: 1820/9 - 1910/3**

**Decade Great Belgium France Germany Russia**

**Britain**

**1820-9** 20.00 n.a. 1.30 1.40 n.a.

**1830-9** 25.45 2.75 2.45 2.45 n.a.

**1840-9** 40.40 4.60 3.95 5.25 n.a

**1850-9** 59.00 7.70 6.45 11.95 n.a

**1860-9** 95.50 11.35 11.35 25.90 0.45

**1870-9** 129.45 14.70 16.20 45.65a 1.60

**1880-9** 163.40 17.95 20.85 71.90b 4.35

**1890-9** 194.15 20.70 28.45 107.05c 9.05

**1900-9** 245.30 24.05 34.70 179.25d 20.50

**1910-3** 275.40 24.80 39.90 247.50e 30.20

**Germany:** proportion of total coal output accounted for by lignite:

a. in 1871 22.4%

b. in 1880 20.5%

c. in 1890 21.4%

d. in 1900 27.0%

e. in 1910 31.3%

1 metric tonne = 1000 kilograms = 2,204.6 lb.

**Source:** Carlo Cipolla, ed., *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, 4 vols. (London, 1973), Vol. IV:2, p. 770.

**Table 14. DECENNIAL AVERAGES OF THE OUTPUT OF PIG IRON AND STEEL IN FRANCE, GERMANY, RUSSIA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN MILLIONS OF METRIC TONS, 1830-9 TO 1910-3 (IRON) AND 1870-9 TO 1910-3 (STEEL)**

**Average of 1880-9 = 100. 1 metric ton = 1000 kg. = 2,204.6 lb.**

**United**

**Decade France Index Germany Index Russia Index Kingdom Index**

**IRON:**

**1830-9** 0.286 16 0.129 4 0.172 31 0.921 11

**1840-9** 0.442 25 0.172 5 0.192 35 1.625 20

**1850-9** 0.731 25 0.334 5 0.243 44 3.150 39

**1860-9** 1.164 66 0.813 25 0.304 56 4.602 57

**1870-9** 1.337 75 1.678 52 0.400 73 6.648 81

**1880-9** 1.772 100 3.217 100 0.547 100 8.040 100

**1890-9** 2.192 124 5.155 160 1.539 281 8.090 101

**1900-9** 3.028 171 9.296 289 2.786 509 9.317 116

**1910-13** 4.664 263 14.836 461 3.870 707 9.792 122

**STEEL:**

**1870-9** 0.260\* 52 0.080\* 33 0.695 30

**1880-9** 0.500 100 1.320 100 0.240 100 2.340 100

**1890-9** 1.015 203 3.985 302 0.930 388 3.760 161

**1900-9** 2.175 435 9.505 720 2.490 1038 5.565 238

**1910-13** 4.090 818 16.240 1230 4.200 1750 6.930 296

\*1875-9 only.

**Table 15. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS IN STEEL PRODUCTION, 1906-13**

**Prices and Costs of Steel Production in Germany, U.S. & Britain**

**A. Steel Prices, in Shillings per Metric Ton (1906-13 mean)**

**Steel German German American British**

**Product Domestic Export Domestic Domestic**

Steel Rails n.a. 110 115 121

Steel Bars 106 106 127 139

Heavy Plates 124 119 132 139

Structural Steel 114 107 133 130

**B. German & American Steel Prices, as Percentages of British Prices**

**German German American**

**Domestic Export** **Domestic**

Steel Rails n.a. 90.9% 95.0%

Steel Bars 76.3% 76.3% 91.4%

Heavy Plates 89.2% 85.6% 95.0%

Structural Steel 87.7% 82.3% 102.3%

**C. German & American Production Costs as Percentages of the British Cost**

**Input** **German**  **American**

**(1906-13)** **(1910-13)**

Iron Ore 69.0% 97.0%

Fuel 88.0% 65.0%

Scrap Metal 95.0% 99.0%

Labour 72.0% 170.0%

Average Unit Costs 72.0% 90.0%

Factor Productivity 115.0% 115.0%

**D.** **McCloskey on British-American Productivity Difference**

**Steel Product British**  **American**

**(1907-09)** **Advantage** **Advantage**

Heavy Plates 1.57%

Rails 8.13%

Bars, Rods 7.22%

Structural Steel 5.94%

Blank Plates, Sheets 1.85%

**Table 16.** **WORLD STEEL PRODUCTION, 1865 - 1910**

in Thousands of Metric Tons (2,204.6 lb.)

**Year Britain Germany U. S. WORLD TOTAL**

**1865** 225 100

**1870** 286 169 68 703

**1880** 1,320 660 1,267 4,273

**1890** 3,637 2,161 4,346 12,096

**1900** 5,130 6,645 10,382 28,727

**1910** 6,374 13,698 26,512 58,656

**Table 17. Demographic and National Income Data for Britain and France, 1800 - 1910**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **1830** | **1840** | **1850** | **1870** | **1890** | **1910** |
| **Income Level**  **in 1970 $US**  France  Britain  **Birth** **Rate\***  France  Britain  **Death Rate**\*  France  Britain  **Labour Force**  **in Agriculture+**  France  Britain  **Agri Income**  **as % GNP+**  France  Britain  **Manuf Income**  **as % of GNP**  France  Britain  **Gr Dom Inv**  **as % GNP**  France  Britain | $343  29.9  25.0  n.a.  38.5  35.9  n.a. | $567  35.9  22.2  25.0  24.9  31.5  10.5 | $432  26.8  21.4  51.8  33.0  39.3  12.4 | $567  $904  25.9  35.2  28.4  22.9  49.3  20.0  33.5  18.8  36.0  33.5  12.5  8.5 | $668  $1,130  21.8  30.2  22.8  19.5  45.9  16.3  28.0  13.4  36.8  33.6  14.0  7.3 | $883  $1,302  19.6  25.1  17.8  13.5  41.0  15.1  28.7  10.3  38.6  31.8  13.6  7.0 |

\* Birth and Death Rates: crude rates measured per thousand

+ Agriculture includes extractive industries as well

n.a. = data are not available

**Source:** Nicholas Crafts, ‘Economic Growth in France and Britain, 1830 - 1910: A Review of the Evidence’, *The Journal of Economic History*, 44 (March 1984), Tables 2-3, pp. 53-54.

**Table 18.** **FOREIGN TRADE: CURRENT VALUES AND INDICES OF THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, AND GERMANY: QUINQUENNIAL MEANS, 1860-4 TO 1910-13**

**Mean of 1870 - 4 = 100**

**Period U. K. U.K. France France Germany Germany**

**Domestic Ex- Index Exports in Index Exports in Index**

**ports in 1870-4 Millions of 1870-4 Millions of 1870-4**

**Millions = 100 Francs = 100 Marks = 100**

**1860-4** 138.4 58.9 2,402.6 71.0

**1865-9** 181.1 77.1 2,992.0 88.4

**1870-4** 234.8 100.0 3,385.0 100.0 2,328.4\* 100.0

**1875-9** 201.5 85.8 3,459.2 102.2 2,696.1\* 115.8

**1880-4** 234.3 99.8 3,457.4 102.1 3,125.0 134.2

**1885-9** 226.2 96.3 3,306.8 97.7 3,067.4 131.7

**1890-4** 234.4 99.8 3,419.6 101.0 3,102.0 133.2

**1895-9** 239.7 102.1 3,607.4 106.6 3,688.4 158.4

**1900-4** 289.2 123.2 4,215.4 124.5 4,791.6 205.8

**1905-9** 377.3 160.7 5,191.4 153.4 6,386.0 274.3

**1910-3** 474.2 202.0 6,476.0 191.3 8,658.8 371.9

\* estimated

**Source:**  B.R. Mitchell, ‘Statistical Appendix’, in Carlo Cipolla, ed., *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, Vol. IV:2, *Emergence of Industrial Societies* (1973), pp. 798-800.

**Table 19.** **British Foreign Trade Components, 1801/10 - 1901/10**

**Decennial Means of British Exports, Imports, ‘Invisible’ Earnings, Balances on Current Account, and Accumulated Balances of Overseas Investments, in Millions of Pounds Sterlings, in Current Prices**

**Decade Export Exports - Imports = Balance + Serv- +** **Divid- = Balance Accumulated**

**Index on Comm- ices ends & on the Balance**

**odity Interest Current of Overseas**

**1801-10 Account Account Investments\***

**= 100**

**in £ in £ in £ in £ in £ in £ in £ sterling**

**1801-10** 100.0 41.05 50.95 -9.90

**1811-20** 101.3 41.60 49.80 -8.20

**1821-30** 89.2 36.60 47.05 -10.45 12.40 4.40 6.35 104.50

**1831-40** 110.0 45.15 63.70 -18.55 16.35 6.70 4.50 149.50

**1841-50** 140.0 57.45 79.35 -21.90 18.70 8.50 5.30 197.00

**1851-60** 259.6 106.55 137.20 -30.65 33.60 14.10 17.05 314.50

**1861-70** 404.6 166.10 223.60 -57.50 62.50 26.30 31.30 591.00

**1871-80** 537.0 220.45 313.85 -93.40 89.90 53.15 49.65 1127.00

**1881-90** 570.8 234.30 331.95 -97.65 97.80 74.50 74.65 1716.00

**1891-00** 584.0 239.75 385.20 -145.45 94.55 97.10 46.20 2296.00

**1901-10** 845.9 347.25 505.55 -158.30 123.55 132.15 97.40 3006.50

**Explanation of the Table:**

Subtract imports from exports to obtain the balance on the commodity account, which was always negative (i.e. the British imported a greater value of goods than they exported). To that negatrive balance on the commodity account, add the ‘invisibles’ consisting of ‘services’ (i.e. shipping, banking, insurance revenues, etc.) and those dividends and interest payments received on foreign (overseas) investments, in order to obtain the final balance on Current Account, which was always positive. Gold movements and other items on Capital Account are not shown here.

**The Equation:** Exports - Imports = Balance on the Commodity Account + Services + Dividends & Interest = Balance on the Current Account.

\* The accumulated net balance of overseas investments (foreign credits) includes the retained or re-invested interest and dividends on accumulated foreign investments. Gold movements and other items on the capital account are not given.

**Source:** Calculated from Peter Mathias, *First Industrial Nation* (London, 1969), Table VII, p. 305.

**Table 20.** **OUTPUT OF PRINCIPAL GRAIN CROPS OF SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IN MILLIONS OF QUINTALS, IN DECENNIAL AVERAGES, 1871-90 TO 1905-14**

**Great**

**Decade Britain France Germany Russia**

**1781-90** 35.0 85.3

**1800-13** 43.0 94.5 268.6

**1815-24** 49.5 104.0 n.a.

**1825-34** n.a. 116.3 n.a.

**1835-44** n.a. 131.4 310.1

**1845-54** 64.0 146.6 122.6 363.3

**1855-64** 68.0 158.5 153.7 381.2

**1865-74** 70.0 160.1 204.8 410.1

**1875-84** n.a. 161.8 248.4 451.0

**1885-94** 56.9 160.1 304.6 515.4

**1895-1904** 52.5 172.1 391.0 479.3

**1905-14** 51.7 171.9 457.9 543.1

1 quintal = 100 kilograms = 0.10 metric ton = 220.46 lb.

**Source:** Carlo Cipolla, ed., *Fontana Economic History of Europe*,Vol. IV:2, pp. 752-53.

**Table 21. CROP YIELDS IN FRANCE, BRITAIN, AND GERMANY, 1906-10**

**Kilograms of Output per Hectare of Land: Five-Year Means**

**(1 hectare = 2.47 acres)**

**Crop France Britain Germany**

Wheat 135 221 201

Rye 106 182 170

Barley 130 196 196

Oats 126 189 197

Potatoes 86 138 136

Source: J. A. Perkins, ‘The Agricultural Revolution in Germany, 1850-1914’, *Journal of European Economic History*, 10 (Spring 1981), p. 115.

**Table 22. WHEAT-TONS PER LABOUR-UNIT IN AGRICULTURE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES: FRANCE, BRITAIN, GERMANY, AND U.S.IN 1880 AND 1930**

**Country 1880 1930**

France 7.4 13.2

Great Britain 16.2 20.1

Germany 7.9 16.0

United States 13.0 22.5

**Table 23. THE POPULATIONS OF SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN MILLIONS, IN DECENNIAL INTERVALS, 1800-1910**

**Great**

**Year Britain Belgium France Germany Russia**

**1800** 10.7 3.1 27.3 n.a. 35.5

**1810** 12.0 n.a. n.a. n.a. n.a.

**1820** 14.1 n.a. 30.5 25.0 48.6

**1830** 16.3 4.1 32.6 28.2 56.1

**1840** 18.5 4.1 34.2 31.4 62.4

**1850** 20.8 4.3 35.8 34.0 68.5

**1860** 23.2 4.5 37.4 36.2 74.1

**1870** 26.0 4.8 36.1a 40.8b 84.5

**1880** 29.7 5.3 37.7 45.2 97.7

**1890** 33.0 6.1 38.3 49.4 117.8

**1900** 37.0 6.6 39.0 56.4 132.9

**1910** 40.9 7.4 39.6 64.9 160.7

a Excluding Alsace-Lorraine.

b Including Alsace-Lorraine.

**Sources:**  B.R. Mitchell and P. Deane, *Abstract of British Historical Statistics* (Cambridge, 1962), pp. 8-10; Carlo Cipolla, ed., *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, Vol. IV:2, pp. 747-48.