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Economics 301Y1

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

Topic No. 5 [9]:

**Urban Governments, Guilds, and Gender-Related Occupations
in Late-Medieval European Towns, 1200 - 1500:**

**Merchant Guilds, Industrial Craft Guilds, and the Contrasting
Economic Roles of Men and Women in Medieval West-European Towns**

READINGS: arranged in the chronological order of publication.

A. General: Crafts and Guilds in Later Medieval Europe

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- ** 3. Sylvia Thrupp, 'The Gilds', and
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- 4. Jacques Le Goff, Time, Work, and Culture in the Middle Ages, trans. by Arthur Goldhammer (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980). See in particular:
 - a) 'Labor Time in the 'Crisis' of the Fourteenth Century: From Medieval Time to Modern Time', pp. 43-52.
 - b) 'Labor, Techniques, and Craftsmen in the Value Systems of the Early Middle Ages (Fifth to Tenth Centuries)', pp. 71-86.
 - c) 'Trades and Professions as Represented in Medieval Confessors' Manuals', pp. 107-21.
- 5. Barbara A. Hanawalt, ed., Women and Work in Pre-Industrial Europe (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986). See in particular:
 - a) Barbara Hanawalt, 'Introduction', pp. vii-xviii.
 - b) Kathryn L. Reyerson, 'Women in Business in Medieval Montpellier', pp. 117-44.
 - c) Maryanne Kowaleski, 'Women's Work in a Market Town: Exeter in the Late Fourteenth Century', pp. 145-64.

- d) Natalie Zemon Davis, 'Women in the Crafts in Sixteenth-Century Lyon', pp. 167-97.
- * e) Martha C. Howell, 'Women, the Family Economy, and the Structures of Market Production in the Cities of Northern Europe during the Later Middle Ages', pp. 198-222.
6. Martha Howell, Women, Production, and Patriarchy in Late Medieval Cities (Chicago, 1986).
- 7. Bo Gustavson, 'The Rise and Economic Behavior of Medieval Craft Guilds: An Economic-Theoretical Interpretation', Scandinavian Journal of Economics, 35:1 (1987), 1 - 40.
- * 8. John Munro, 'Textile Workers', in Joseph R. Strayer, et al., eds., The Dictionary of the Middle Ages, Vol. XI (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988), pp. 693-715. Reprinted in John Munro, Textiles, Towns, and Trade: Essays in the Economic History of Late-Medieval England and the Low Countries, Variorum Collected Studies series CS 442 (London, 1994).
- * 9. Martha C. Howell, 'Citizenship and Gender: Women's Political Status in Northern Medieval Cities', in Mary Eler and Maryanne Kowaleski, eds., Women and Power in the Middle Ages (Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 1988), pp. 37-61.
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- * 12. Steven A. Epstein, Wage Labor and Guilds in Medieval Europe (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1991). See in particular chapter 4, 'Guilds and Labor in the Wider World', pp. 155-206; and especially chapter 5, 'Labor and Guilds in Crisis: the Fourteenth Century', pp. 207-56.
13. Claire Dolan, ed., Travail et travailleurs en Europe au moyen âge et au début des temps modernes, Papers in Mediaeval Studies 13 (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 1991). See below, section C.
- * 14. Charles R. Hickson and Earl A. Thompson, 'A New Theory of Guilds and European Economic Development', Explorations in Economic History, 28 (April 1991), 127 - 68.
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19. John Hatcher, 'Labour, Leisure, and Economic Thought Before the Nineteenth Century', Past & Present, no. 160 (August 1998), 64-115.
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- * 21. Bruno Blondé, Eric Hanhaute, and Michèle Galand, eds., Labour and Labour Markets between Town and Countryside (Middle Ages - 19th Century), CORN Publication Series 6: Comparative Rural History of the North Sea Area (Turnhout: Brepols, 2001).
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 - b) Jean-Pierre Sosson, 'Some Thoughts on Mediaeval Towns and the Division of Labour during the so-called Pre-Corporative Period', pp. 19-32.
 - c) Adriaan Verhulst, 'On the Preconditions for the Transition from Rural to Urban Industrial Activities (9th-11th Centuries)', pp. 33-41.
 - d) Franz Irigler, 'From Captive Manorial Trade to Free Urban Trade: On the Development of the Division of Labour in the Rhine-Westphalia Region (9th - 15th Centuries)', pp. 42-52.
 - e) Derek Keene, 'Industrial Organisation in English Towns, 650 - 1150', pp. 53-74.
 - f) Stephan Epstein, 'Introduction to Part II', pp. 76-81.
 - g) William R. Day, Jr., 'Population Growth and Productivity: Rural-Urban Migration and the Expansion of the Manufacturing Sector in Thirteenth-Century Florence', pp. 82-110.
 - h) Eric Mielants, 'The Role of Medieval Cities and the Origins of Merchant Capitalism', pp. 111-39.
 - i) Peter Stabel, 'Urban Markets, Rural Industries and the Organisation of Labour in Late-Medieval Flanders: the Constraints of Guild Regulations and the Requirements of Export-Oriented Production', pp. 140-57.
 - j) Michael Limberger, 'Early Forms of Proto-Industries in the Backyard of Antwerp? The Rupel Area in the 15th and 16th Centuries', pp. 158-73.
 - k) Bruno Blondé, 'Introduction to Part III', pp. 175-77.
 - l) Mateos Royo, 'Municipal Politics and Corporate Protectionism: Town Councils and Guilds in the Kingdom of Aragon in the 16th and 17th Centuries', pp. 178-97.
 - m) Carl A. Hoffmann, 'Labour Markets between the Distribution of Trades in the Countryside and the Loss of Economic Centrality in Towns in the Holy Roman Empire: Examples of Proto-Industrial Areas in Early-Modern South Germany (Baden, Bavaria, Swabia, Württemberg)', pp. 198-217.

- n) Harald Deceulaer, 'Urban Artisans and their Countryside Customers: Different Interactions between Town and Hinterland in Antwerp, Brussels and Ghent (18th Century)', pp. 218-35.
- o) Sylvie Lefèbvre, 'The City and the Forest: a Privileged Relationship? Some Remarks on the Cse of the Soignes Forest, 16th - 18th Centuries', pp. 236-49.
- p) Eric Vanhaute, 'Introduction to Part IV', pp. 251-53.
- q) José A. Nieto Sánchez and Victoria López Barahona, 'Women's Work and Proto-Industrialisation: Madrid and New Castile (1750-1850)', pp. 254-65.
- r) Marc Libert, 'The Butcher's Trade in Brussels during the French Period (1797-1812): Between Corporatist Traditions and Deregulation', pp. 266-77.
- s) Valérie Piette, 'Women Going to the Cities: Migration and Stereotypes: the Example of Servants in Brussels in the 19th Century', pp. 278-91.
- t) Martina De Moor, 'The Occupational and Geographical Mobility of Farm Labourers in Flanders from the End of the 19th Century to the Middle of the 20th Century', pp. 292-304.
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- * 24. Peter Berezin, 'Did Medieval Craft Guilds Do More Harm Than Good?', The Journal of European Economic History, 32:1 (Spring 2003), 171-97.
25. Francis W. Wolek, 'The Lesson of Guild History: Variance Reduction Must Be Balanced with Innovation', Quality Management Journal, 11:2 (Spring 2004), 33-41.
26. Sheilagh Ogilvie, 'Guilds, Efficiency, and Social Capital: Evidence from a German Proto-Industry', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 57 (2004), 386-33.
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- * 33. Oscar Gelderblom and Regina Grafe, 'The Rise and Fall of the Merchant Guilds: Re-thinking the Comparative Study of Commercial Institutions in Premodern Europe', Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 11:4 (Spring 2010), 477-511.
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 - (b) chapter II: 'Differentiation of Classes within the Craft Guild', pp. 41-69.
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- * 3. Ephraim Lipson, The Economic History of England, Vol. I: The Middle Ages (London, 1915; 7th edn. 1937)
 - (a) chapter VII: 'The Guild Merchant', pp. 264-307.
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 - (c) 'London Tradesmen and their Creditors', pp. 100-16.
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 - e) Carmen Batlle, 'Le travail à Barcelone vers 1300: les métiers', pp. 79-102.
 - f) Rosa Maria Dentici Buccellato, 'I mestieri della città: Palermo tra due e trecento', pp. 103-46.
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 - h) Anna Esposito, 'L'arte della lana nei centri minori dello Stato Pontificio: il caso de Narni nel XV secolo', pp. 175-92.
 - i) Pierre Hurtubise, 'Les 'métiers' de cour à Rome à l'époque de la Renaissance', pp. 217-52.
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QUESTIONS:

1. Define the nature of guilds in late-medieval western Europe: in institutional, legal, political, and social terms.
2. How had guilds evolved or changed from the 11th to 14th centuries in medieval north-western Europe: and how did they change subsequently in the late Middle Ages (i.e. ca. 1300-ca. 1500)?
3. In late medieval western Europe, what was the relationship between urban governments on the one hand and merchant and craft guilds on the other? How did such relationships change over the course of the later medieval era?
4. What was the role of women in late-medieval crafts and craft guilds? Did women ever succeed in becoming 'masters' in any crafts, apart from their role as widows of masters? Did they every succeed in occupying any positions of power in medieval craft guilds? What barriers did they face? How do you explain the organization of some purely female guilds?

5. What were the chief differences between merchant and craft guilds? How were each type typically organized. In each, and particularly in the latter, what were the roles of: master, journeyman, apprentice? How were such guilds, mercantile and craft, governed?
6. Discuss the aims, objectives, and policies of late-medieval guilds: economic, social, cultural, religious, and political.
7. More precisely, what were the purely economic objectives of late-medieval guilds, merchant and craft, in terms of: creating local (urban) monopolies; controlling production and marketing; controlling prices; controlling entry into the profession or craft; regulating or stabilizing incomes; quality controls, etc.
8. To what extent were late-medieval guilds, especially craft guilds, successful in pursuing such policies, particularly in terms of:
 - (a) control of or support of their urban governments; support from or opposition from princely or national governments.
 - (b) the nature of the product or service supplied
 - (c) control over both input and output markets: i.e. the degree of monopsony and monopoly powers that could be exercised. Compare those guilds producing for the local market and those producing for regional or international markets; those utilizing local inputs and those importing inputs.
 - (d) current economic trends: booms and depressions, in particular those of the late-medieval 'Great Depression.'
9. Were late-medieval guilds obstacles to economic progress and development: were they necessarily opponents of individual economic initiative and enterprise; to technological innovation?
10. How did the urban textile guilds of the late medieval Low Countries differ from 'typical' craft guilds of this era?
11. In what respects may late-medieval guilds be seen as 'ancestors' of modern labour unions and/or professional associations: in what respects are there similarities in organization and policies?