

Revised: 28 December 2006

Economics 301Y1: The Economic History of Western Europe to 1914

Topic No. 9 [22]: The Proto-Industrialization Debate: Agriculture, Rural Handicraft Industries in Early Modern Europe, and the Transition to Modern Urban Industrialization

A. The Proto-Industrialization Debate:

- * 1. Franklin F. Mendels, 'Proto-Industrialization: The First Phase of the Industrialization Process', The Journal of Economic History, 32 (March 1972), 241-61.
- * 2. Donald C. Coleman, 'Proto-Industrialization: A Concept Too Many', Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 36 (August 1983), 435-48.
- * 3. L. A. Clarkson, Proto-Industrialization: The First Phase of Industrialization?, Studies in Economic and Social History Series (London, 1985), pp. 9 - 57.
- * 4. Eckart Schremmer, 'Proto-Industrialisation: A Step Towards Industrialisation?' Journal of European Economic History, 10 (1981), 653-70.
5. Lennart Jorberg, 'Proto-Industrialization: An Economic Historical Figment', Scandinavian Economic History Review, 30 (1982).
- * 6. Sheilagh C. Ogilvie and Markus Cerman, eds., European Proto-Industrialization (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996). Various studies, but in particular: Sheilagh Ogilvie and Markus Cerman, 'The Theories of Proto-Industrialization', pp. 1-11; and Pat Hudson, 'Proto-Industrialization in England', pp. 49-66.
- * 7. Gay Gullickson, 'Agriculture and Cottage Industry: Redefining the Causes of Proto-industrialization', Journal of Economic History, 43 (1983), 831-50.
8. P. Kriedte, H. Medick, J. Schlumbohm, Industrialization Before Industrialization (1977). Introduction, and pp. 12-37 (Kriedte).
9. Gwynne Lewis, 'Proto-industrialization in France', Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 47:1 (February 1994), 150-65. A review article.
10. Ann Kussmaul, 'The Pattern of Work as the Eighteenth Century Began', and Maxine Berg, 'Factories, Workshops, and Industrial Organisation', in Roderick Floud and Donald McCloskey, eds., The Economic History of Britain Since 1700, 2nd edn., vol. 1: 1700-1860 (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 1-11. 123-50.
11. Maxine Berg, Pat Hudson, and Michael Sonenscher, eds., Manufacture in Town and Country Before the Factory (Cambridge, 1984). 'These essays dissent from the recently elaborated theory of proto-industrialisation and stress instead the alternative forms of manufacture which existed before industrialisation.' (CUP publicity).
12. Roger Burt, 'Proto-industrialisation and 'Stages of Growth' in the Metal Mining Industries', The

Journal of European Economic History, 27:1 (Spring 1998), 85-104.

13. Sheilagh Ogilvie, 'Guilds, Efficiency, and Social Capital: Evidence from German Proto-Industry', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 57:2 (May 2004), 286-333.
14. Patricia Hudson, 'Land Markets, Credit and Proto-Industrialisation in Britain and Europe', in Simonetta Cavaciocchi, ed., Il mercato della terra, secoli XIII - XVIII, Istituto internazionale di storia economica "F. Datini" Prato, Serie II: Atti delle 'Settimane di Studi' et altri convegno no. 35 (Florence: Le Monnier, 2004), pp. 721-42.

B. Other Important Studies on Agriculture and Rural Industries:

- * 1. Rudolf Braun, 'The Impact of Cottage Industry on an Agricultural Population', in David Landes, ed., The Rise of Capitalism (New York, 1966), pp. 53-64. A translation of excerpts of Industrialisierung und Volksleben: die Veränderungen der Lebensformen in einem landlichen Industriegebiet vor 1800 (Zurich and Stuttgart, 1960). A classic study on 18th century Switzerland, close in theme to the following essay by Thirsk.
- * 2. Joan Thirsk, 'Industries in the Countryside', in F.J. Fisher, ed., Essays in the Economic and Social History of Tudor and Stuart England (Cambridge, 1961), pp. 70-88. An even more important, classic study, with very considerable relevance to the subsequent proto-industrialization debate.
- * 3. S. Hymer and S. Resnick, 'A Model of an Agrarian Economy with Non-agricultural Activities', American Economic Review, 59 (1961): should be read in conjunction with Jones (1968).
- * 4. Eric Jones, 'The Agricultural Origins of Industry', Past and Present, No. 40 (1968), 58-71; reprinted in E. J. Jones, Agriculture and the Industrial Revolution (London, 1974). An excellent seminal article that was in many respects decisively influential in constructing the subsequent proto-industrialization thesis.
5. Raymond A. Jonas, 'Peasants, Population, and Industry in France', Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 22 (Autumn 1991), 177-200.
6. Pierre Claude Reynard, 'Manufacturing Quality in the Pre-Industrial Age: Finding Value in Diversity', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 53:3 (August 2000), 493-516.

QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the proto-industrialization debate: in particular the Mendels thesis and its critics. What does the term mean, especially in relation to the modern urban Industrial Revolution? What is the evidence for Mendels contention that 'the rapid growth of traditionally organized but market-oriented, principally rural industry' in early modern Europe 'induced the passage the modern industry' and 'paved the way for factory industrialization'?
2. Discuss the significance of the proto-industrialization debate in the context of various Marxian theses about the 'transition from feudalism to capitalism'. See articles by Hobsbawm ('General Crisis of the 17th Century'), Kriedte, Medick, and others in the main reading list.
3. How was rural industry typically organized in early-modern Europe (especially by the 'putting-out' system in textiles); and what relationship did such industries have with agriculture? What changes

did such industries undergo from the 16th to early 19th centuries, especially in relation to agrarian changes?

4. Discuss the differences, in organisation, technology, location, labour structures, etc. between the major English industries, especially textile and metallurgical industries, in the 17th, early 18th centuries and those in the 19th century. Explain the nature of and reasons for those industrial changes.