

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2006

ECO 303Y1 Y
The Economic History of Modern Europe, to 1914

Aids Allowed: one letter sized sheet, double-sided (21.5 cm by 27.5 cm),
containing any data or information that the student wishes to supply.

Duration - 3 Hours

Answer ONE question from the FOUR questions offered in EACH of the following THREE parts, for a total of THREE questions, all of which are of EQUAL VALUE. DO NOT give similar answers to the questions selected; and thus DO NOT select questions with similar themes. Double-space your answers. Write legibly on one side of the page only; and number or identify your questions properly.

PART ONE: answer **one** and only one of the following four questions.

1. Was population growth more a cause or a consequence of industrial and general economic growth in Great Britain during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? Discuss the endogenous and exogenous factors involved in Great Britain's 'demographic revolution', in particular the role of biological, social, cultural, and economic forces; and explain how population growth contributed to the development of both the agrarian and industrial sectors of the British economy in this period.
2. In terms of the current and on-going 'standard of living' debate during the Industrial Revolution era, discuss the role of *some* of the following factors in either lowering or raising living standards of the working and lower middle classes, in both rural and urban societies, from c.1760 to c.1850:
 - (a) population growth
 - (b) warfare and war-related fiscal and monetary policies
 - (c) inflation and then deflation
 - (d) Enclosures and the labour supply for urban industrialization
 - (e) 'capitalism' and financing the early phases of the Industrial Revolution
3. Discuss the role that warfare, and war-related government economic policies played in the changing economic fortunes of Great Britain, the Netherlands, and France, from the later 17th century to the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. What innovations in the financial and industrial sectors, in particular, can be related to the warfare of this era?
4. The 'economic decline' of the Netherlands in the eighteenth century: was it a partial cause or consequence of the British Industrial Revolution? Was the Dutch economic decline relative or absolute; and was it related to economic competition with Great Britain or to other, basically internal and endogenous factors? Whatever your answer, compare the two countries' financial and commercial sectors during the eighteenth century.

PART TWO: answer **one** and only one of the following four questions.

1. In the context of the current 'proto-industrialization' debate, discuss the rural origins of modern industry. In particular compare and contrast the growth and development of the cotton and iron industries in Great Britain, and their transition from being rural to becoming essentially urban industries during the Industrial Revolution era, and after (i.e., to the 1860s).
2. Compare the role of financial institutions, and also the role that the state played in the performance

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of those institutions, in the economic development of **one** of the following sets of countries, during the period so indicated, in either (a) or (b):

- a) the Netherlands (the Dutch Republic), England, Scotland, and France, from 1660 to 1850.
- b) Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia, from ca. 1830 to 1914.

3. Discuss the role of the state, in terms of both positive and negative contributions, in establishing peasant emancipation, land reforms, and agricultural growth in France, Germany, Poland, and Russia, from 1789 to 1914.
4. Compare and contrast the economic development of Great Britain and France, from c. 1760 to c. 1914, in terms of the interrelationships between and among demographic, agrarian, and industrial changes. To what extent were the differences in industrialization of these two countries the consequences of an historic 'path dependency' involving their agrarian and demographic structures?

PART THREE: Answer **one** and only one of the following four questions:

1. How important were natural-resource endowments in permitting the industrialization of first Great Britain and then of other European countries from the 18th to the early 20th centuries? How did some countries successfully utilize their resource advantages, in competition with other countries; and how did some seek to compensate for their disadvantages in, or lack of, natural resources? In your answer discuss the experiences of Great Britain and of at least two continental countries: the Netherlands, France, Germany, Russia.
2. Compare the roles of entrepreneurship and business organization in the economic development of at least **two** of the following countries from ca. 1850 to 1914: Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia. In particular, what economic, social and political factors influenced the scale of enterprise, and how was that scale related to entrepreneurship?
3. Did the European and/or British economies experience a 'Great Depression' during the deflationary era of 1873-1896? In your answer discuss or resolve all of the following problems:
 - a) what were the causes and consequences of this deflation: what were the economic costs and benefits of deflation?
 - b) why did so many people in this period, in Great Britain in particular, believe that they were experiencing a depression?
 - c) If the British economy did not experience 'depression', did it experience 'industrial retardation'?
 - d) How does the performance of the British economy compare with those of France and Germany in this period – and from 1896 to 1914?
4. Discuss the role of Free Trade, the Gold Standard, and of capital exports in the British and continental European economies from ca. 1850 to 1914. How are these three issues related to the following debates? You may focus on just one or two of these issues:
 - a) the debate about the era of 'Capitalist Imperialism' (aka: 'the New Imperialism').
 - b) the debate about the comparative roles of domestic and foreign capital investment in the performance of the British (and/or German) economies in this period.
 - c) the debate about the role of monetary and real factors in influencing long-term price movements of inflation and deflation: the role of gold, in particular.