

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2009

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

No Examination Aids Allowed.

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 select questions with similar themes, and thus do not provide similar answers. Double-space your answers.

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

1. In terms of the current debates on the 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century' and the 'Economic Decline of the Netherlands in the Eighteenth Century', discuss the following:
 - a) Explain how and why the Dutch enjoyed commercial and financial supremacy during the era of this 'general crisis' (ca. 1620 - ca. 1740).
 - b) Compare and contrast the changing fortunes of the Dutch and British overseas commercial empires, during this era, involving Hobsbawm's concepts of the Crisis of 'Old Colonialism' and the transition to 'New Colonialism'.
 - c) Discuss the role of 'New Colonialism' and international finance in explaining the economic 'decline' of the Netherlands and the foundations for the British Industrial Revolution.

2. In terms of the three following debate topics, discuss the relationships between demographic, agrarian, and industrial changes in England, from the mid-17th to mid-19th centuries, in providing the foundations for the modern Industrial Revolution, in particular an urban industrial labour force.
 - a) The Demographic or 'Vital Revolution'
 - b) The Agricultural 'Revolution' and the Enclosure Movements
 - d) Proto-Industrialisation: especially in terms of rural handicraft industries and population growth.

3. Compare and contrast the economic and social consequences of the so-called Demographic, Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, from the 1760s to the 1850s, in terms of the current 'standard of living debate', involving changes in real incomes and in living conditions. If, in the pre-modern era, Malthusian factors had been prime determinants of living standards for most of the population, how did the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions nullify those Malthusian factors?

4. Was the British Industrial Revolution more of a supply-induced or demand-induced phenomenon? Did the Industrial Revolution create its own markets, capital, and labour forces? Or was the Industrial Revolution more dependent in its origin on external, exogenous, and especially demand-driven forces?

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

1. Analyse and compare roles of the textile and metallurgical industries in the industrialization of modern Britain and Germany, up to 1914. In doing so, answer the following questions.
 - a) discuss how and why technological innovation and changes in industrial organization created

continued on page 2/...

- genuine industrial capitalism in these two industries.
- b) discuss the role of natural-resource endowments in both industries, and both countries.
 - c) explain how and why one country gained and maintained mastery in textiles, and how the other country did so in metallurgy (coal, iron and steel), up to 1914.
2. In terms of interrelationships between demographic, agrarian, and industrial changes, compare and contrast the economic development of **France** with at least one other European country (e.g., Germany, Great Britain, Russia), from ca. 1760 to c. 1914. To what extent were the differences in industrialization of the two countries chosen the consequences of an historic 'path dependency' involving their agrarian and demographic structures? If you select Great Britain as one of the countries, do not repeat any part of your answers given in the previous section I.
 3. To what extent did the economic development and industrialization of nineteenth-century France, Germany and Russia depend on 'peasant emancipation' and 'land reform' (to 1914)? Compare and contrast the achievements of agricultural progress and economic growth in these three countries.
 4. In the context of the Gerschenkron thesis, analyse the role of the state in the economic development and industrialization of **two or three** of the following countries between the French Revolution and World War I, and in at least **two sectors** of the economy of each: France, Germany, and Russia.

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

1. Did Great Britain experience 'industrial retardation' during the period 1870 - 1914, in comparison with (a) British economic growth from 1820 to 1870, (b) German or French industrialization from 1870 to 1914? Explain the differences in British industrial performances, for both (a) and (b), focusing on industrial scale, business organization, entrepreneurship, technological innovations, and product innovations (i.e., in capital and consumer goods).
2. Did British economic development, during the 19th and early 20th centuries, obey 'the law of comparative advantage', in industry, agriculture, commerce and finance. Discuss the following :
 - a) If true, why was Britain more successful in doing so than any other European country?
 - b) What were the economic gains from observing the 'law of comparative advantage'?
 - c) If Britain did achieve such gains, do those achievement accord with the current thesis on British 'industrial retardation' from the 1870s to World War I?
3. Compare the role of banking and financial institutions, both private and public, in the economic development of at least **two** of the following countries, from 1789 to 1914: Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia. Discuss both positive and negative features of these financial institutions, where relevant; and explain why these institutions were indispensable for industrialization. (If you chose question 4, in Part Two, do not repeat any of your answer in this question).
4. Evaluate the Marxist and non-Marxist theories about the era of so-called 'New Imperialism' ('Capitalist Imperialism'), from the 1870s to World War I. Discuss in particular the following:
 - a) the economic roles of foreign trade, capital exports, and colonial acquisitions in this debate.
 - b) the relationship between New Imperialism, Free Trade, and Protectionism.
 - c) the costs and benefits of overseas colonial acquisitions: the overall impact on economic growth, especially for Great Britain.