

# **VIII: Macro- and Structural Changes in the European Economy, 1500 – 1750**

## **A. Population: Demographic Movements and Changes, c. 1500 – c. 1750**

**revised 11 January 2012**

<b>PART II:</b>		<b>SECOND SEMESTER: JANUARY TO APRIL 2012</b>
<b>Week no., Wednesday Dates, and Suggested Readings</b>	<b>Lecture No.</b>	<b>LECTURE TOPICS to be covered</b>
<p>13. <b>11 January 2012</b></p> <p><b>Brady</b>, ch. 1 (de Vries); ch. 2 (Wiesner); <b>Davis</b>, ch. 6;</p> <p><b>Cipolla</b>, chs. 5, 10 (pp. 234-37); <b>de Vries</b>, ch. 1;</p> <p><b>Musgrave</b>, chs. 1-3</p> <p><b>ET 6</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>MACRO-ECONOMIC CHANGES: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES:</b></p> <p>Population Growth in the 'Price Revolution era' (ca. 1520-1640): a Malthusian Crisis?</p> <p>Population Stagnation/Decline during the 'General Crisis' era (1640-1750);</p> <p>on the Eve of the 'Vital' and 'Industrial' Revolutions.</p> <p>[Mid-year voluntary take-home test: due on 18 January 2012]</p>

## **MAJOR ECONOMIC & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

**A. THE MEDIEVAL 'COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION' ERA: RAPID POPULATION GROWTH:**

ca. 1100 - ca. 1320 (Phase A)

**B. LATE MEDIEVAL 'GREAT DEPRESSION': DEMOGRAPHIC CATASTROPHE**

ca. 1320 - ca. 1460 (strong Phase B)

**C. ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC RECOVERIES**

ca. 1460 - ca. 1520 (mild Phase A)

**D. THE 'PRICE REVOLUTION' ERA: STRONG DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH**

ca. 1520 - ca. 1640 (strong Phase A)

**E. THE 'GENERAL CRISIS' ERA of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century: DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE OR STAGNATION**

ca. 1640 [or 1620] - ca. 1740 (mild phase B)

**F. THE INDUSTRIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ('VITAL') REVOLUTIONS**

ca. 1740 - ca. 1820 (strong Phase A)

# Demographic Changes

## from 1500 to 1750: Introduction

- (1) **To the eve of the Industrial Revolution**
- - **this Revolution was accompanied by a ‘Vital Revolution’**: an unprecedented growth in population in England and Wales
- - **from 1760 to 1810**: English/Welsh population doubled from about 6 to 12 million
- - **from 1810 to 1910**: it tripled again to 36 million
- - **Continental Europe’s population** also grew far more rapidly from 1760s than ever before – if not at the same rate as England’s population

# Demographic Changes

## from 1500 to 1750: Introduction 2

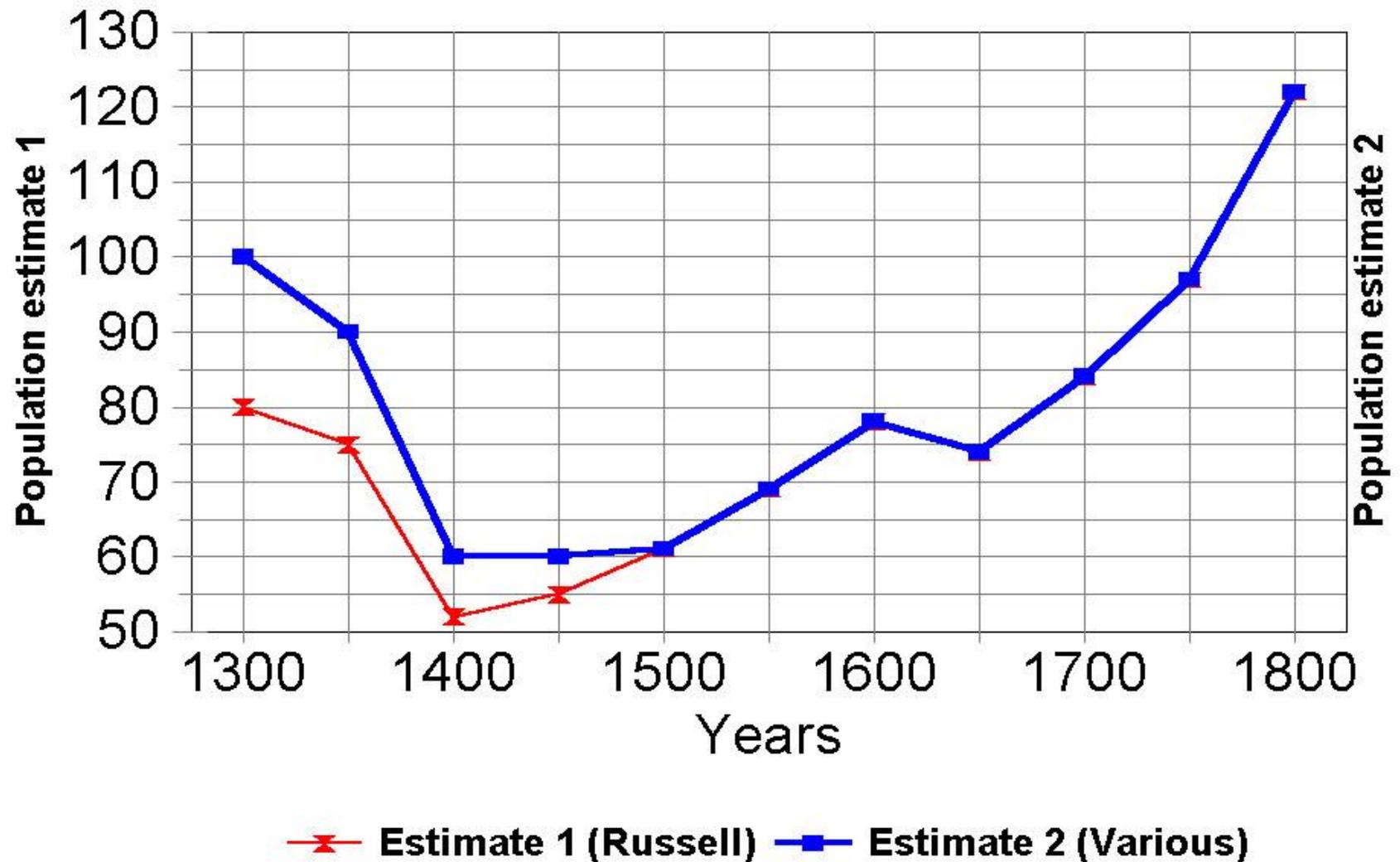
- (2) **Recovery from the late-medieval demographic crises:** a population decline of about 40% in 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- - **causes of that decline involved both mortality & fertility**  
-- and not just the Black Death
- (3) **did recovery begin in mid-15<sup>th</sup> century?**
- - a) **Italy was probably the first region to experience any renewed population growth**
- - b) **Florence's population** fell from ca. 120,000 in 1338 to 37,144 in 1427 (almost 70%) )
- - c) **no signs of recovery in Florence** until the 1460s
- - then more substantial growth: see table for Florence
- - c) **in north west Europe: no recovery until ca. 1520**

# Population of Florence (Tuscany)

Date	Estimated Urban Population
1300	120,000
1349	36,000?
1352	41,600
1390	60,000
1427	37,144
1459	37,369
1469	40,332
1488	42,000
1526 (plague year)	70,000

# The Population of Europe

1300 - 1800, in millions



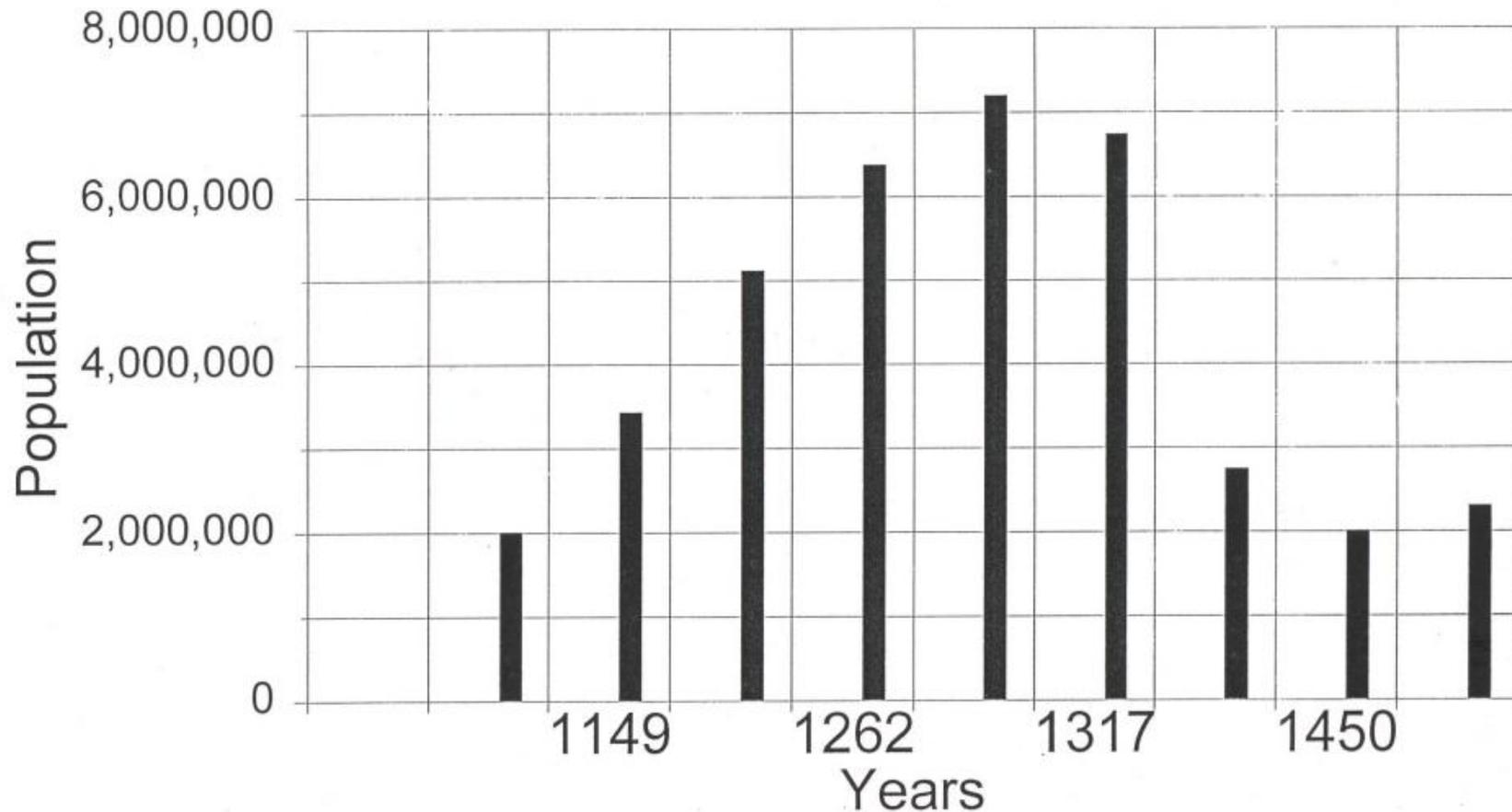
# Demographic Changes

## from 1500 to 1750: Introduction 3

- (3) **The Confusing Case of England:**
- -a) **our estimate of English demographic recovery and subsequent growth depends on conflicting population estimates for 1300:**
- - **J C Russell (1948):** 3.75 million (in 1347)
- - **Michael Postan (1966, 1972)** and most other historians after him: a maximum of 6 million in 1300
- - **Hallam (1988):** argued for 7 million (or more) in 1290s
- - **Jan de Vries (1994):** 3.7 million – as in Russell
- - **Bruce Campbell and Pamela Nightingale (1996):** from 4.0 to 4.5 million (probably closer to 4.0 million)
- - b) **English population estimate for 1520** (the end of the demographic decline and stagnation): 2.25 to 2.50 million (England + Wales)
- - **so even the Campbell estimate for 1300** means a demographic decline of 50%!
- - c) **Southern Low Countries:** also reached demographic nadir ca. 1500-10

# ENGLISH POPULATION ESTIMATES

1088 - 1523: in Millions



**Population Decline and Poverty in the Duchy of Brabant, 1437 - 1496**  
**Number of Family Hearths (Households) and Percentage of Total Hearths**  
**without Taxable Income ('Poor Hearths'): 1437, 1480, and 1496**

Area of Census	1437: no. of hearths in census	1437: per-cent poor hearths	1480: no. of hearths in census	1480: per-cent poor hearths	1496: no. of hearths in census	1496: no. of poor hearths	Percent Change from 1437 to 1496
<b>Brussels</b>	6,376	10.5	7,414	7.9	5,750	17.1	-9.82%
<b>Antwerp</b>	3,440	13.5	5,450	10.5	6,586	12.5	91.45%
<b>Leuven</b>	3,579	7.6	3,933	18.3	3,069	n.a.	-14.25%
<b>s'Hertogenbosch</b>	2,883	10.4	2,930	7.9	3,456	n.a.	19.88%
<b>Sub-total Large Towns</b>	16,278	10.5	19,727	14.8	18,861	n.a.	15.87%
<b>Small Towns</b>	14,159	9.2	12,216	28.1	10,600	n.a.	-25.14%
<b>Villages</b>	62,301	29.7	54,540	31.6	45,882	n.a.	-26.35%
<b>Total Duchy</b>	<b>92,738</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>86,483</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>75,343</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>-18.76%</b>
<b>Percentage Change from 1437</b>			<b>-6.74%</b>		<b>-18.76%</b>		

**EUROPEAN POPULATION DISTRIBUTIONS, 1000 - 1450 A.D.**

<b>Area</b>	<b>1000 A.D.</b>	<b>1320 A.D.</b>	<b>1450 A.D.</b>
<b>Mediterranean:</b> Greece, Balkans, Italy, Iberia (Spain and Portugal)	17.0 (44%)	25.0 (34%)	19.0 (38%)
<b>West-Central:</b> Low Countries, France, Germany, Scandinavia, British Isles	12 (31%)	35.5 (48%)	22.5 (45%)
<b>Eastern Europe:</b> Russia, Poland-Lithuania, Hungary, Bohemia	9.5 (25%)	13.0 (18%)	9.5 (19%)
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<b>51</b>

**Source:** J.C. Russell, 'Population in Europe, 500 - 1500', in Carlo Cipolla, ed., *Fontana Economic History of Europe*, Vol. I: *The Middle Ages, 900-1500* (London, 1972), pp. 25-70: Table 1, p. 19.

# Demographic Recovery Factors 1

- (1) **Diminution of Warfare:**
  - - **end of Hundred Years War (1337-1453)**
  - - wars continued, but on a far smaller scale, and more localized geographically
- (2) **Diminution of the plague:**
  - - less frequent, more geographically localized,
  - - with lower mortalities

# Demographic Recovery Factors 2

- (3) **Economic recovery**: preceding demographic recoveries
- a) **English cloth trade and rise of the Antwerp market**: 1420s to the 1460s
- b) **restoration of long-distance continental trade**: from Venice via Alps through South Germany, Frankfurt, down the Rhine to the Brabant Fairs: from 1440s
- c) **the South German-Central European silver-copper mining boom**, from the 1460s to the 1530s: diverting silver from Venice to Antwerp
- d) **supremacy of the Antwerp market: ca. 1460 – ca. 1550**:
- - based on the TRIPOD of English woollens, South German metals, Portuguese-Asian spices (last: from 1500)

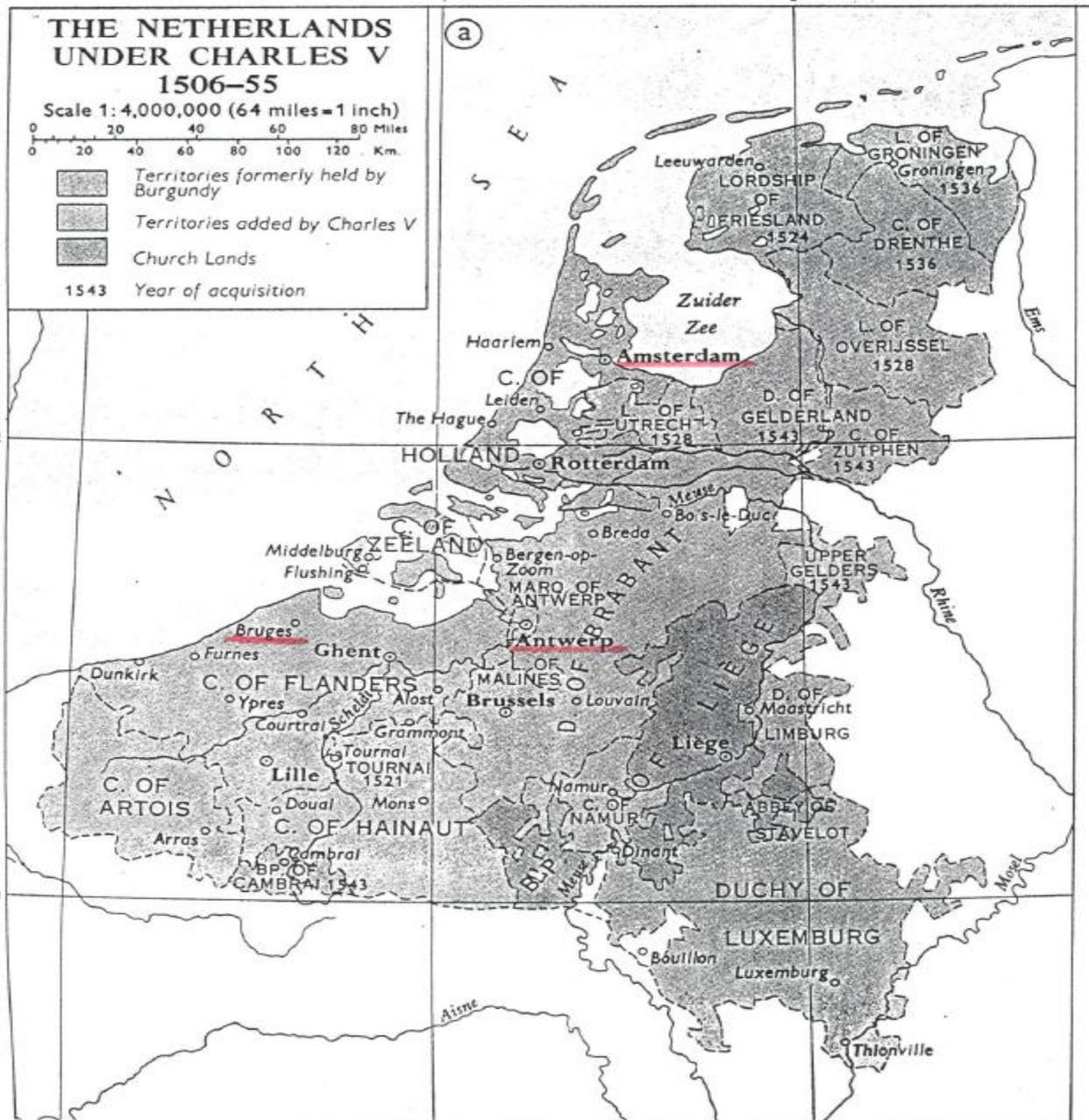


# THE NETHERLANDS UNDER CHARLES V 1506-55

Scale 1:4,000,000 (64 miles=1 inch)

0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles  
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Km.

-  Territories formerly held by Burgundy
-  Territories added by Charles V
-  Church Lands
- 1543 Year of acquisition



# European Marriage Pattern

- 1) **Low Pressure Demographic System:** with potentially low birth and also low death rates →
  - - **permitted far greater variance or elasticity in birth rates, so that BR became the dynamic variable**
  - - **as opposed to Universal Marriage Pattern: high pressure system with high (maximum) birth and high death rates, so that DR was always the dynamic variable**
- 2) **If EMP operative in NW Europe by 15<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps rising real incomes promoted much higher birth rates:**
  - thus: → **earlier marriages** → **larger families** (since women far more fertile in early 20s than later).
  - - **also increased proportion of women who married** (i.e., reduced the extent of female celibacy)

# Price Revolution Era: Population changes, ca. 1520 – ca. 1640

- (1) **From early 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century:** most of Europe experienced dramatic demographic recovery and growth: in some place surpassing the medieval peak (but in England?)
- (2) **Total European population grew:** from perhaps 60.9 in 1500 to 97.10 million in 1750: about 60%
- (3) **Important regional shifts:** from 1500 to 1800
  - - **NW Europe:** grew from 12.5% to 20.7% of total
  - - **Mediterranean Europe:** declined from 30.0% to 25.5%
- (4) **Not just European:** Islamic North Africa & Asia also experienced dramatic recovery & growth.

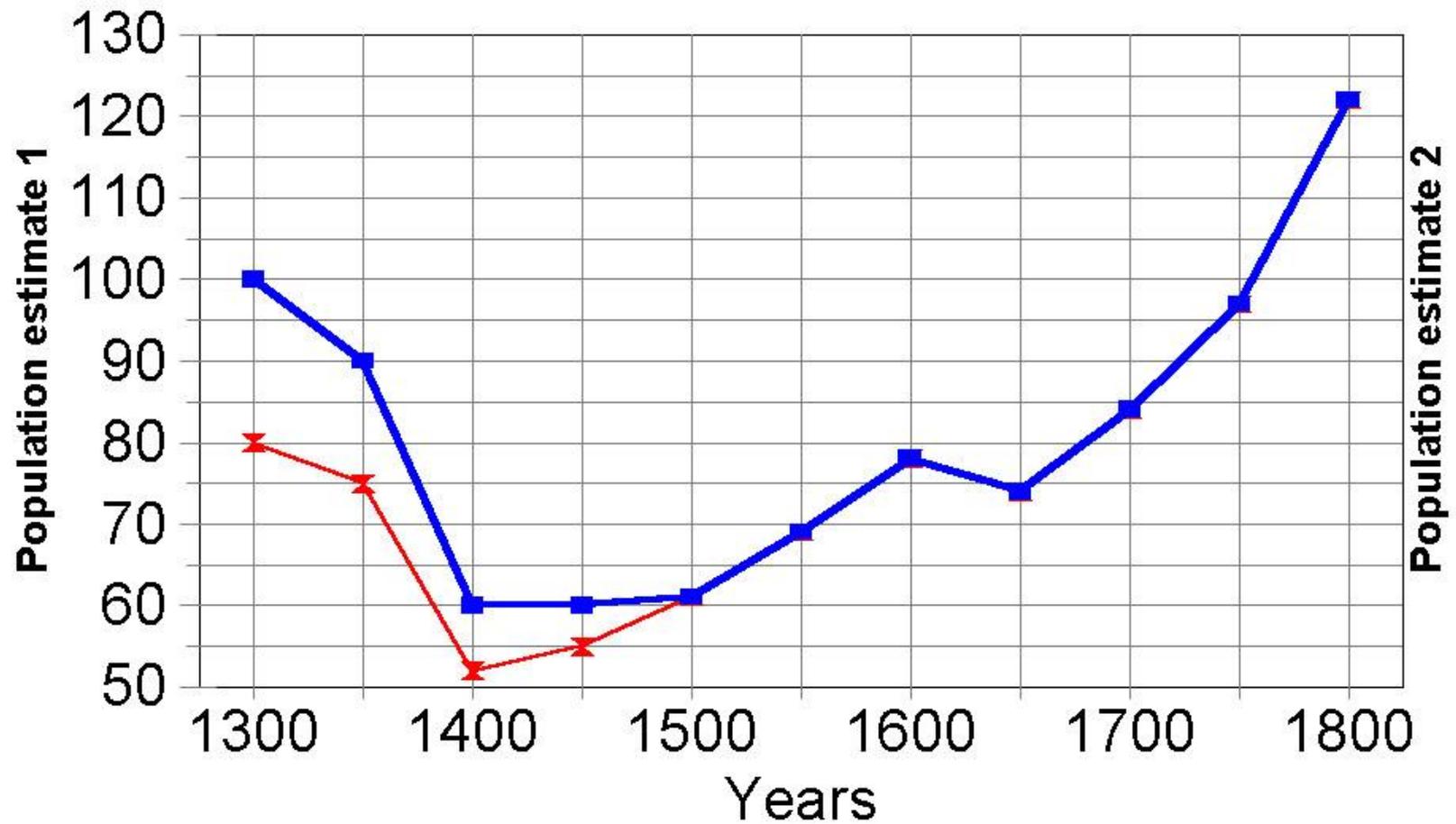
**The Populations of Europe, by Regions, 1500 - 1800  
in millions**

<b>Region</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>1650</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>1800</b>
<b>North West</b>	7.6	9.5	11	14.25	15.1	17.4	25.3
<b>NW % of Europe</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
<b>Central Europe</b>	29	33.75	36.9	33.5	38.2	43.8	53.5
<b>Cent % of Europe</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>47.4%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>45.7%</b>	<b>45.1%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>
<b>Mediterranean</b>	18.3	20	22.3	19.6	22.8	26.5	31.2
<b>Med: % of Europe</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	6	6.6	7.7	7.1	7.4	9.4	12.2
<b>Eastern: % of Europe</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>69.85</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>74.45</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>122.2</b>

Source: Jan De Vries, 'Population', in T.A. Brady, H.A. Oberman, and J.D. Tracy, eds., *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600*, Vol. I: *Structures and Assertions* (Leiden, 1994), p. 13

# The Population of Europe

1300 - 1800, in millions



—x— Estimate 1 (Russell) —■— Estimate 2 (Various)

# European Cities: 1500 – 1750 (1)

- (1) **Change from 1300:** when Europe's largest cities were all in **Mediterranean**: then accounting for only 8% of total population
  - - **Constantinople (now Istanbul)**: 200,000 – 300,00
  - - **Venice and Milan**: about 150,00: **Florence**: 120,000
  - - **Paris**: largest in north: 50,000 or 300,000?
- (2) **1500 – 1600: despite late-medieval demographic decline**, Europe now had 5 cities over 100,000:
  - - **Paris and esp. Naples** (latter: 281,000 by 1600): now the largest, with Constantinople (capital of Ottoman Empire)
  - - **how did they grow?** - from rural immigration (because DR exceeded BR)

# European Cities: 1500 – 1750 (2)

- (3) **1600 – great urban leap forward:** to 14 cities from 50,000 – 100,000; 12 cities over 100,00, plus another 3 cities over 400,000
- - **London:** the largest about 500,000
- - **Paris and Constantinople:** next largest
- - **despite demographic shift to north**, Mediterranean basin still more urbanized: 17% of total, vs. 10% north of the Alps (towns of 5,000+)
- (4) **1750: Europe now had 512 cities between 50,000 – 100,000;**
- 43 from 100,000 - 400,00; 4 over 400,000:
- urban population now 12% of total: denser now in north.

## Number of Cities in the Indicated Population Range

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>50,000- 100,000</b>	<b>100,000 400,000</b>	<b>Over 400,000</b>
<b>1300</b>	4	3 - 4	0
<b>1500</b>	5	5	0
<b>1650</b>	14	12	3
<b>1750</b>	512	43	4

# European Urbanization

- (5) **Urban growth: again from rural immigration:**  
WHY?
- (6) **Economic Importance of Growing Cities**
- (a) **now engines of economic growth:** as centres of trade, finance, and more industry
- (b) **Large, efficient, concentrated markets** → savings on transaction costs (scale economies)
- (c) **skilled labour:** better education & training → greater, more productive division of labour
- (d) **better access to commercial & financial facilities**

# Feeding Early Modern Towns (1)

- (1) **Rising agricultural productivity:** lectures on English & Dutch agriculture: from 1400 to 1700, productivity doubled
- (2) **New grain-producing settlements in eastern Europe:** East Elbia: Prussia and Poland
- - **growth promoted by Hanseatic & Dutch shipping** (from Danzig: estuary of Vistula)
- (3) **Greater commercialization of agriculture**

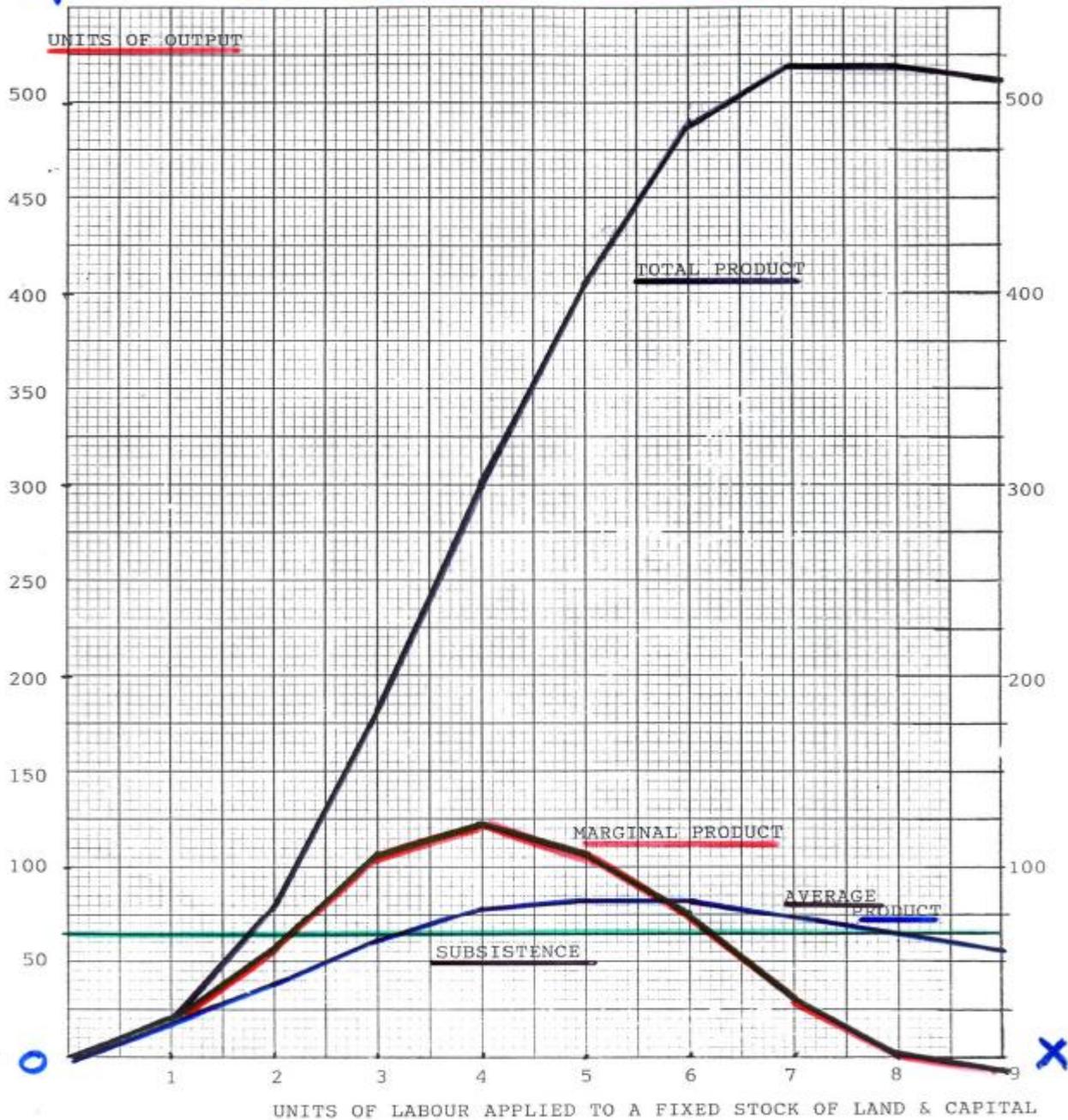
# Feeding Early Modern Towns (2)

- (4) **Overseas discoveries & colonizations:** in the New World
- - **North Atlantic (Newfoundland) cod fisheries**
- - **New crops introduced from Americas:**
- - **maize (corn):** from North America into S. Europe
- - **potatoes:** from South America into N. Europe (1600)
- - **sugar, tea, coffee:** from New World and Asia
- - **But new crops not widely grown, and new beverages not widely consumed** until later 17<sup>th</sup> century
- - **Americas and Asia: also not a major source of grains** before the later 19<sup>th</sup> century (see ECO 303Y)

# Was there an incipient Malthusian crisis by early 17<sup>th</sup> century?

- **Some statistical evidence of Malthusian problems:**
- **(1) rising real food prices (i.e., relative to other commodity prices):** possible evidence of diminishing returns in European agriculture?
- **(2) declining real wages:** at least for industrial workers paid time rates (how many?)
- **(3) rising mortality and falling birth rates:** at least in England
- **(4) evidence of increased frequencies of famines:**
- in France (to 1789); but not England, after ca. 1610-20

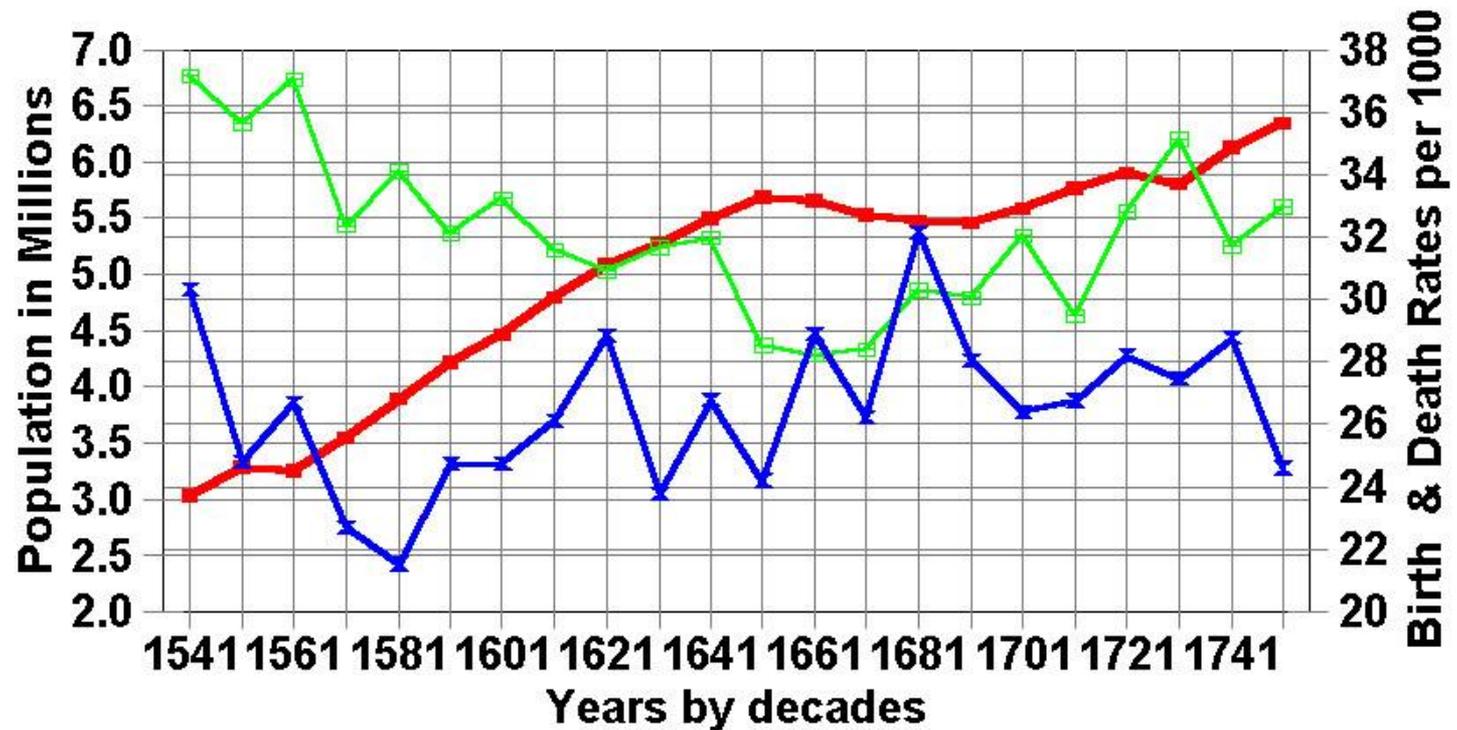
DIMINISHING RETURNS AND OVERPOPULATION



UNITS OF LABOUR APPLIED TO A FIXED STOCK OF LAND & CAPITAL

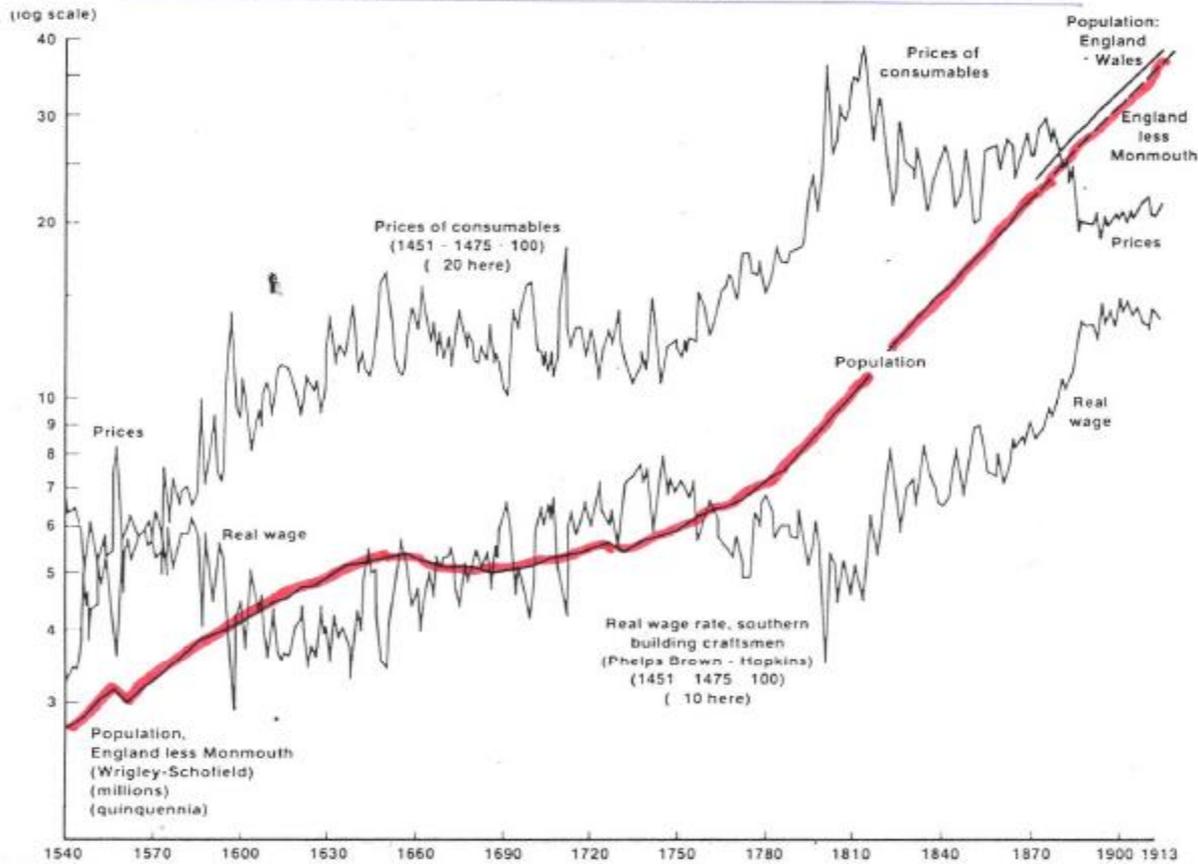
# POPULATION: ENGLAND & WALES 1541-1741

in millions, by decades



—●— Population in Millions    —□— Birth Rate per 1000    —▲— Death Rate per 1000

Fig. 1 Real Wages, Prices, and Population in England and Wales, 1541-1913



$$RWI = NWI/CPI$$

The Real Wage Index = Nominal Wage Index divided by the Consumer Price Index

Peter Lindert, 'English Population, Wages, and Prices: 1541 - 1913', *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 15 (Spring 1985), 614.

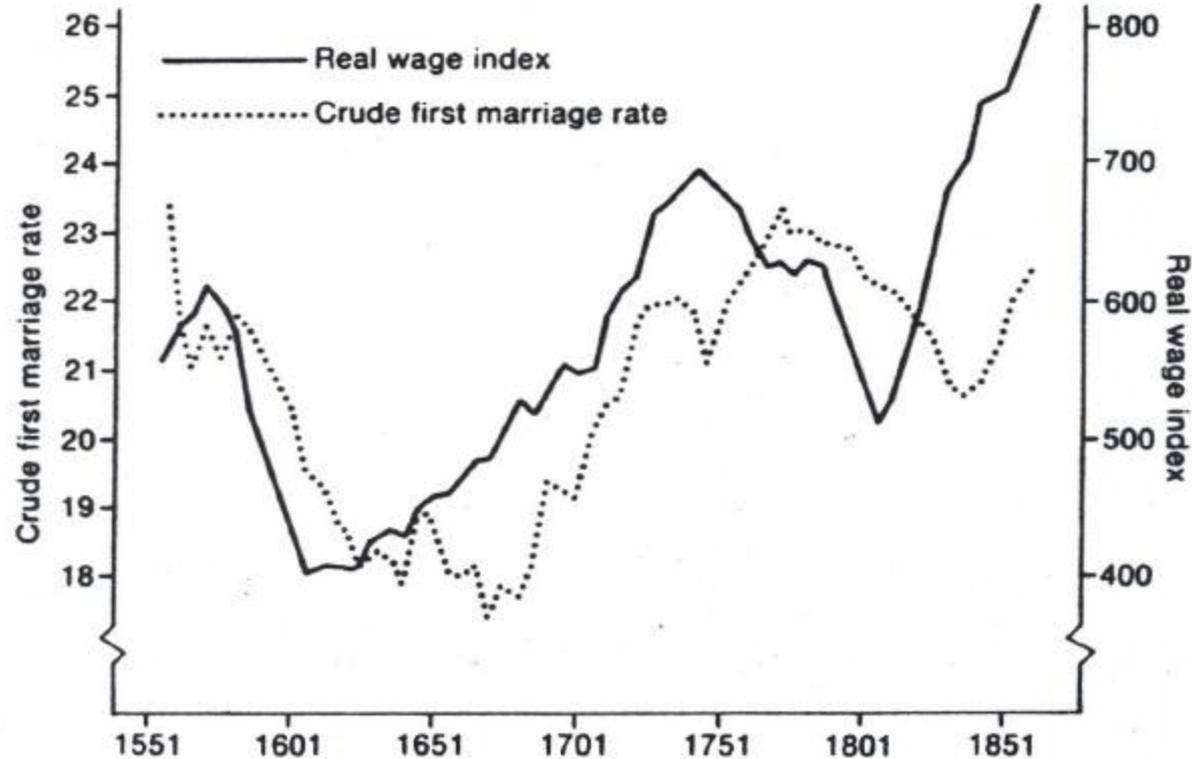


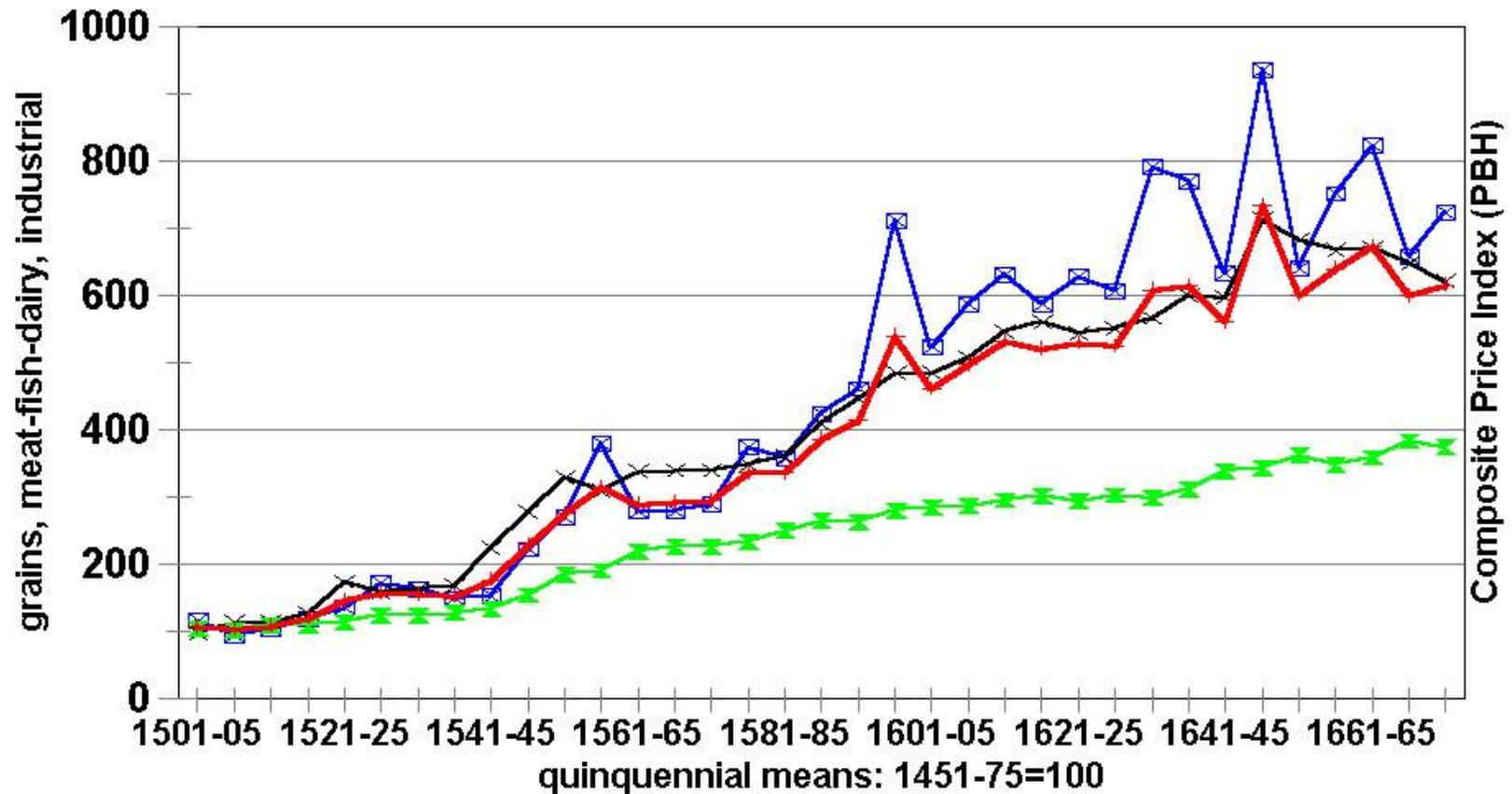
Figure 3. Real Wage Trends and the Crude First Marriage Rate in England. Both in 25-year moving averages.

Real Wage Rate: Construction wage rates deflated by an index of the cost of consumables.  
 Crude First Marriage Rate: Marriages per 1000 population, excluding re-marriages.



# English Commodity Prices 1501 - 1675

PBH Indexes in 5 yr means: 1451-75=100



—□— Farinaceous (with drink)

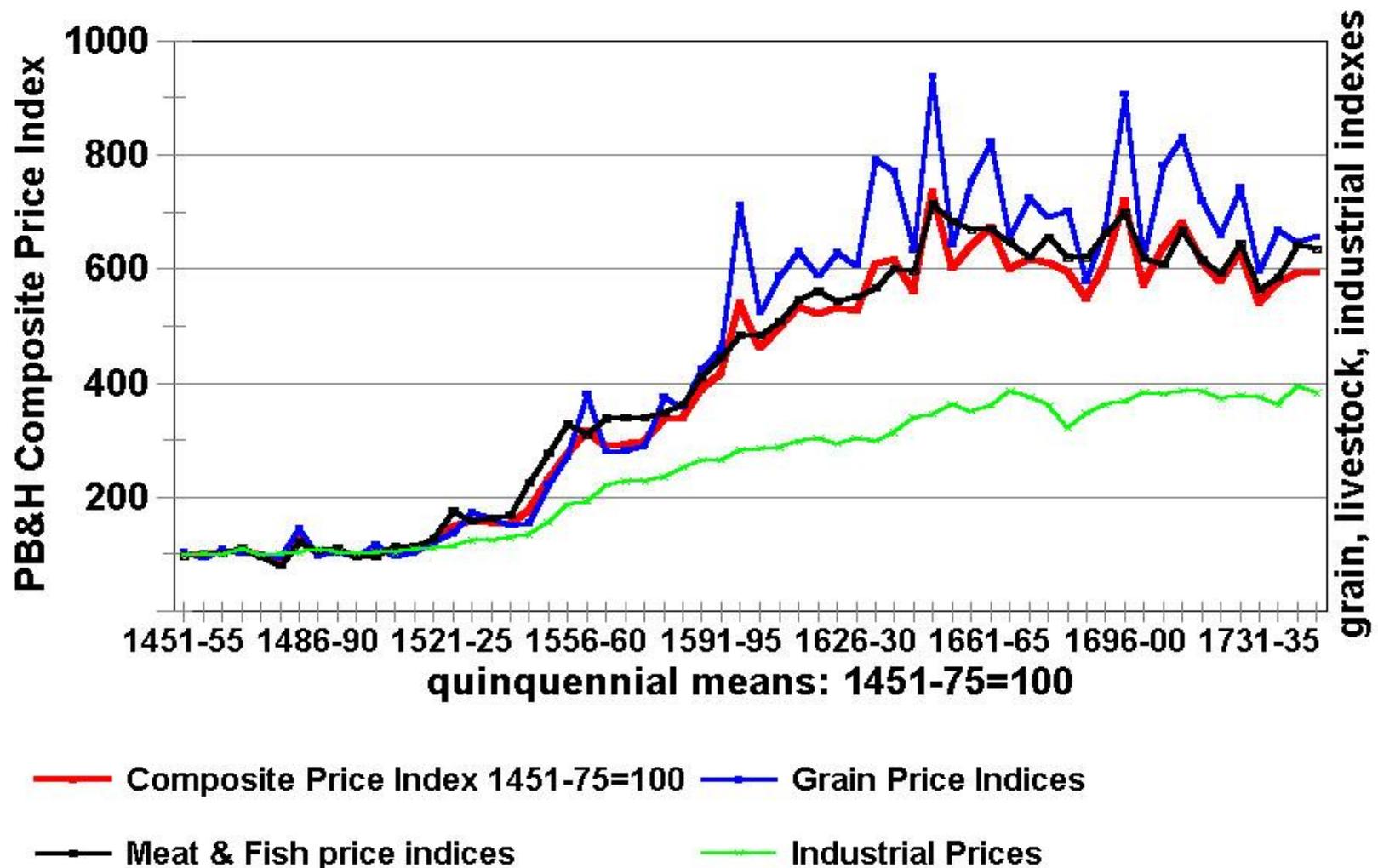
—×— Meat-Fish-Dairy Index

—★— Industrial Price Index

—+— Composite Price Index 1451-75=100

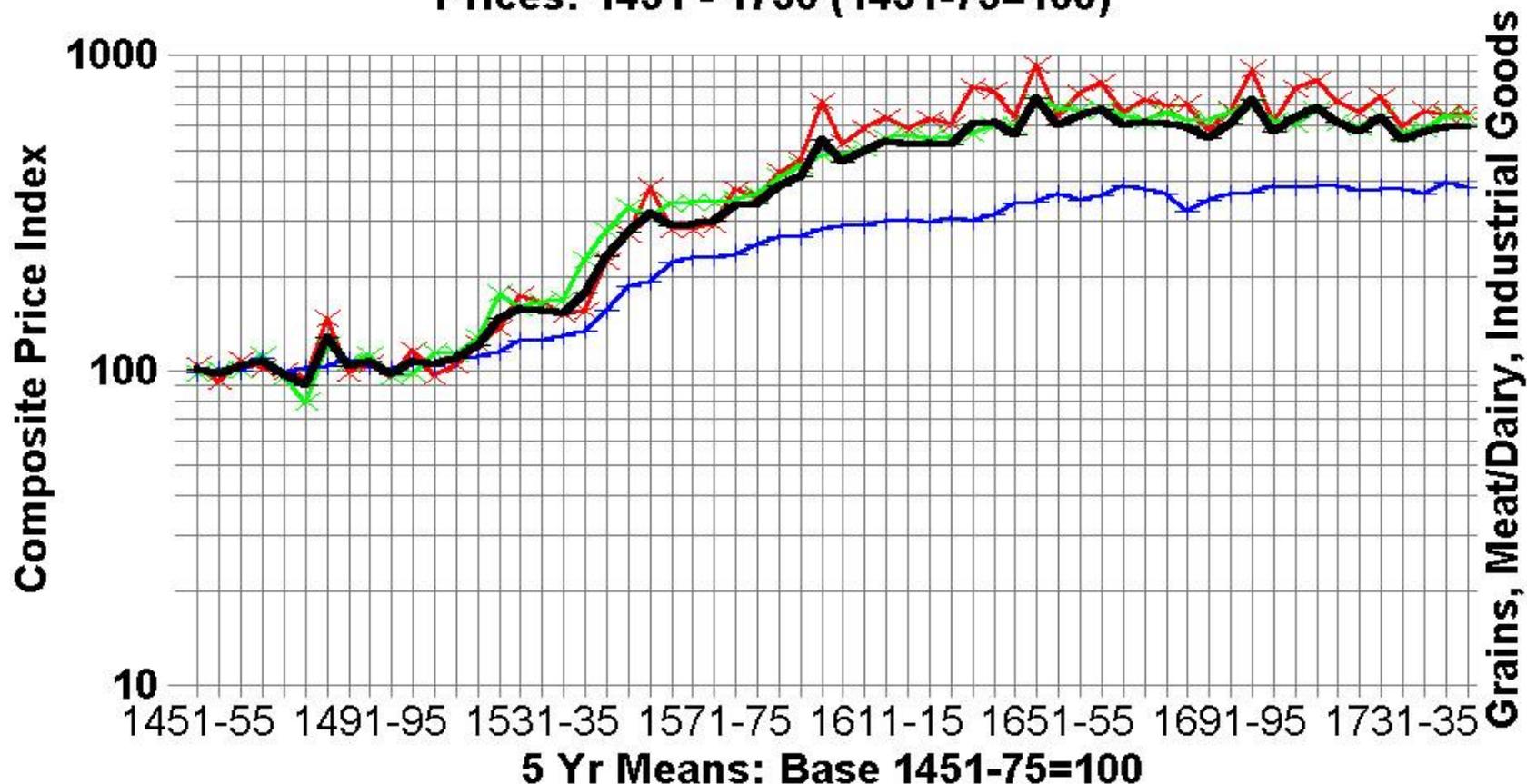
# English Price Indexes, 1451-1750

grain, livestock, industrial, composite



# England: Phelp Browns & Hopkins Index

Prices: 1451 - 1750 (1451-75=100)

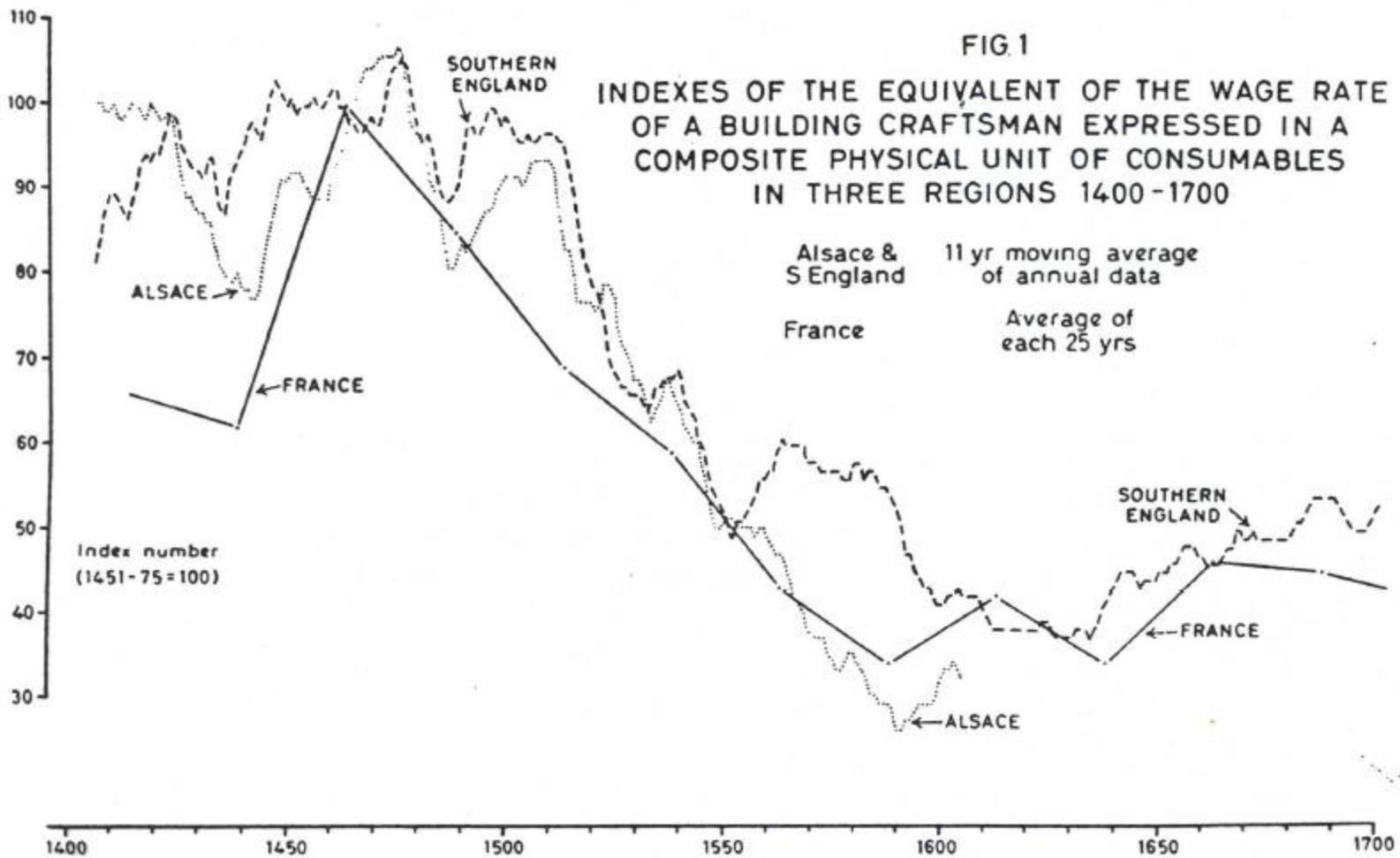


—x— Farinaceous & Drink 1451-75=100

—x— Meat, Fish, Dairy 1451-75=100

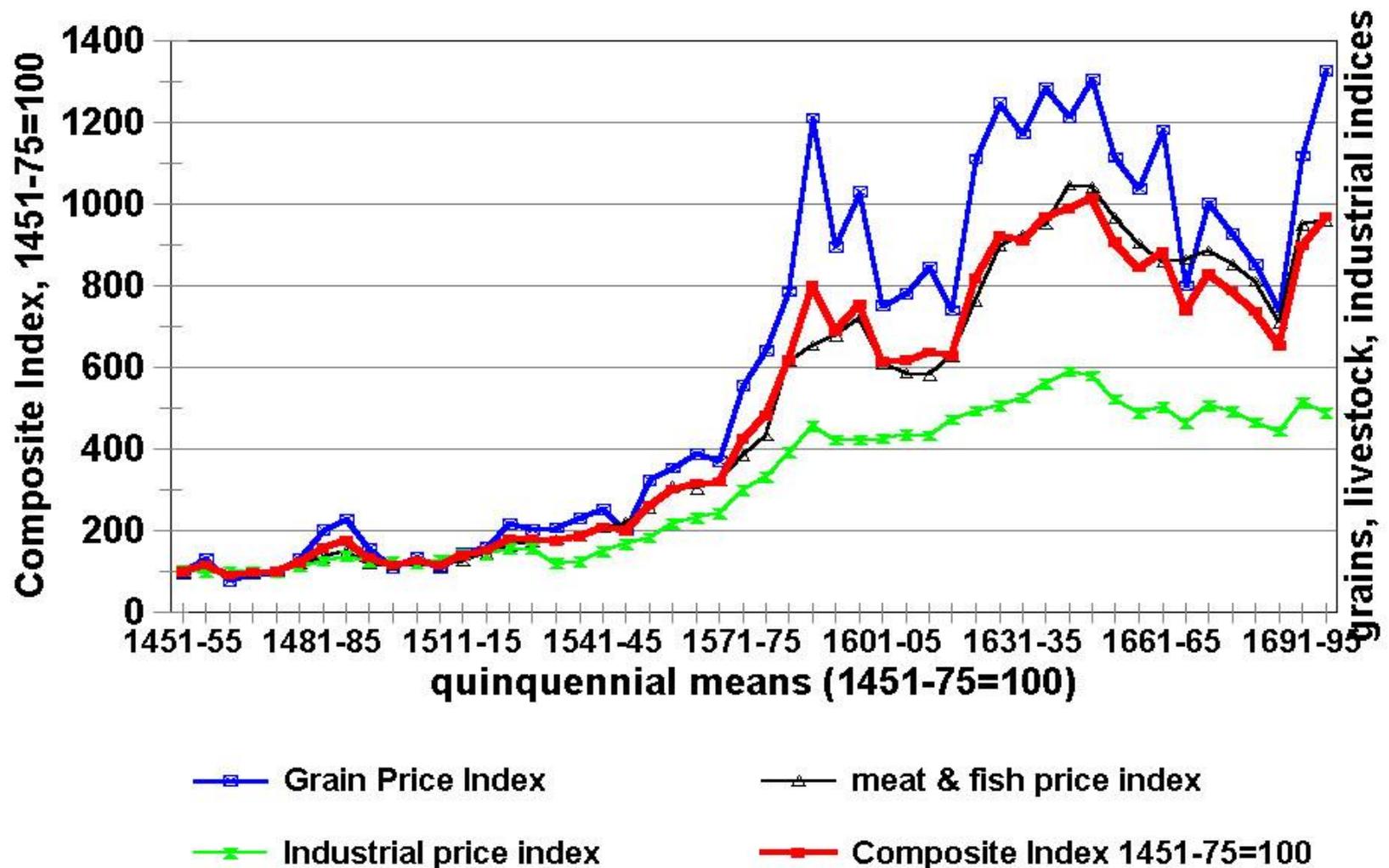
—+— Industrial Prices 1451-75=100

— Composite Price Index 1451-75=100



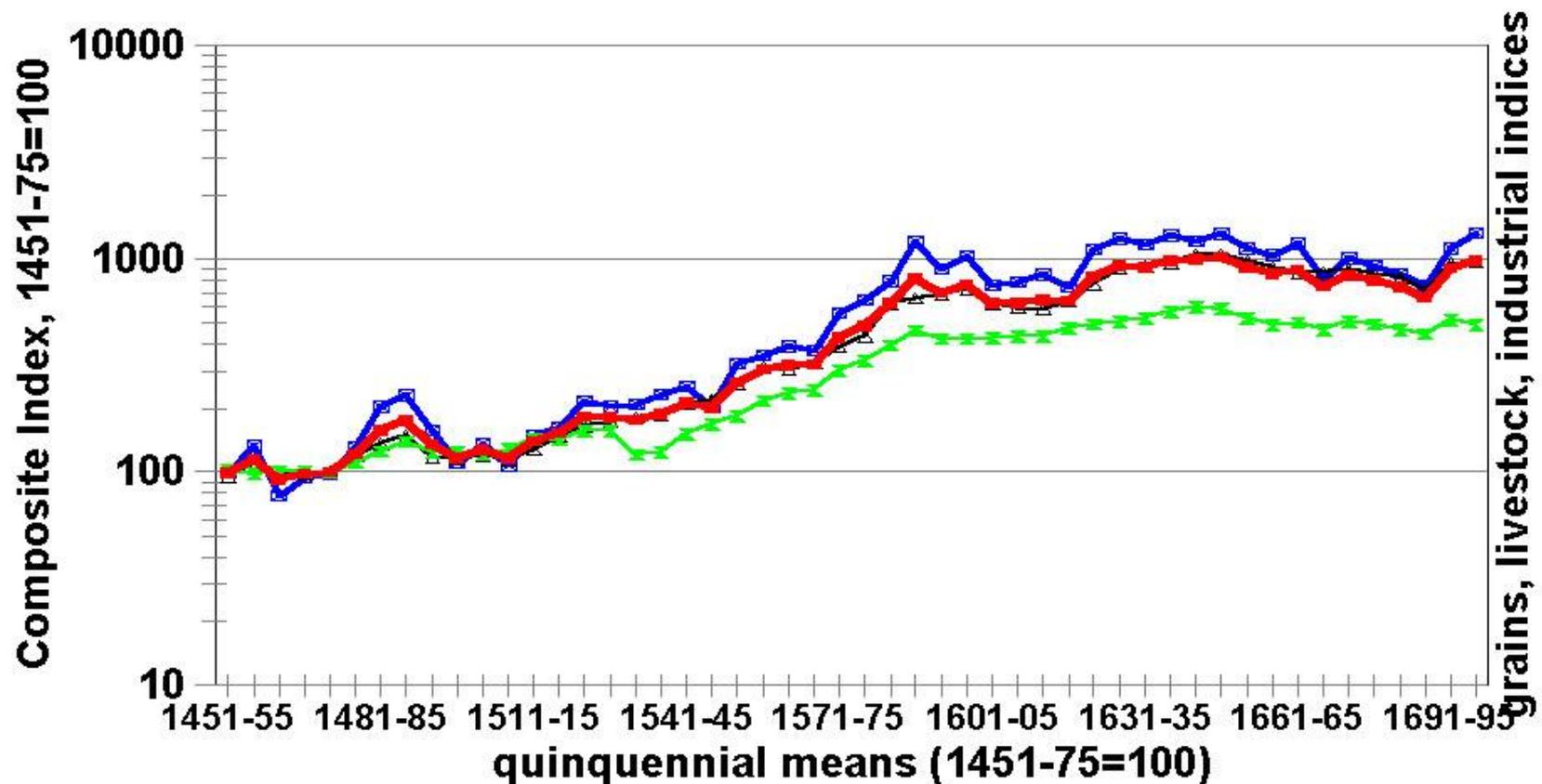
# Brabant: Price Indexes, 1451-1700

## grain, livestock, industrial, composite



# Brabant: Price Indexes, 1451-1700

## grain, livestock, industrial, composite



—■— Grain Price Index

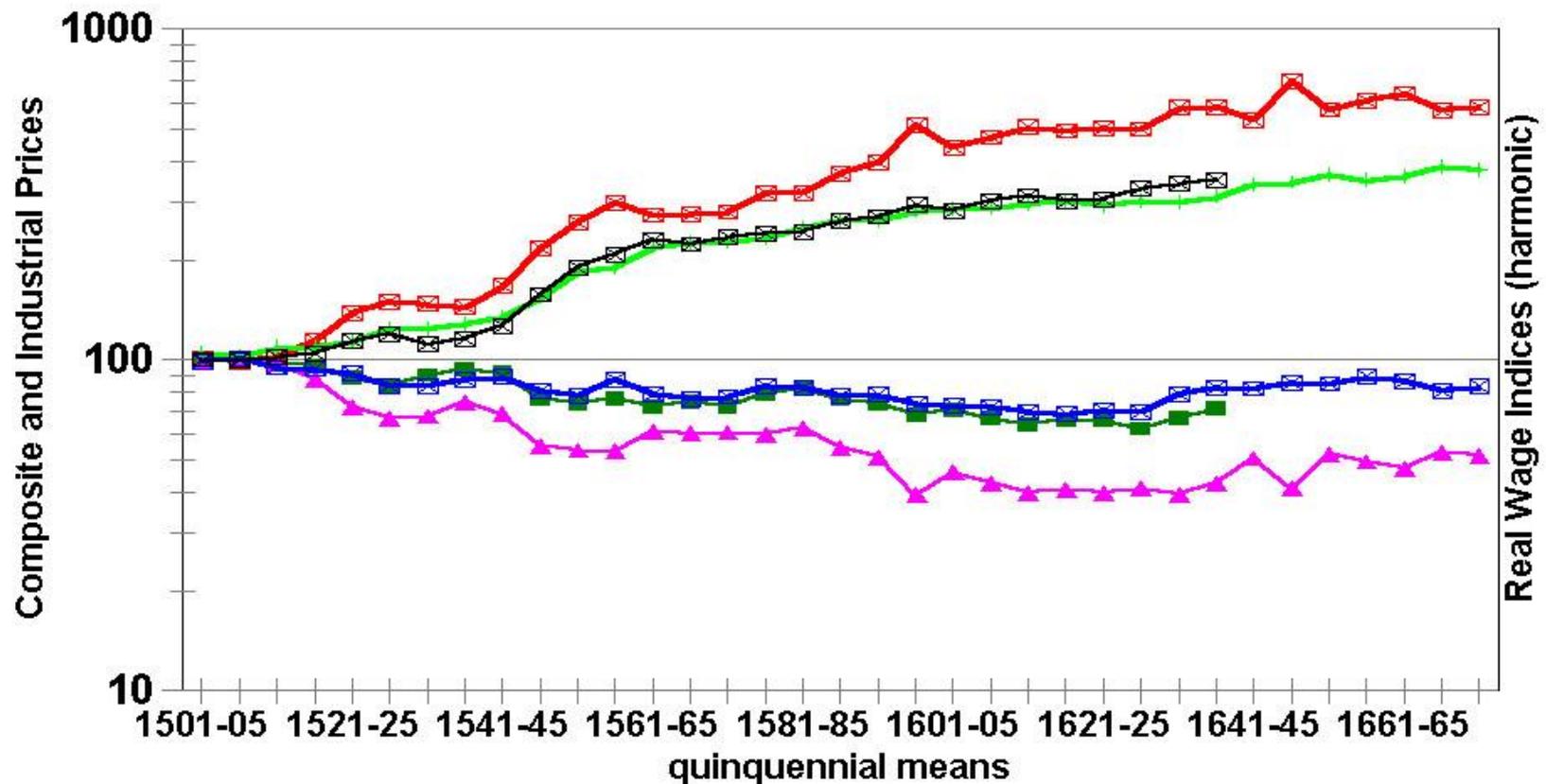
—△— meat & fish price index

—×— Industrial price index

—●— Composite Index 1451-75=100

# England: Prices & Wages, 1501-1675

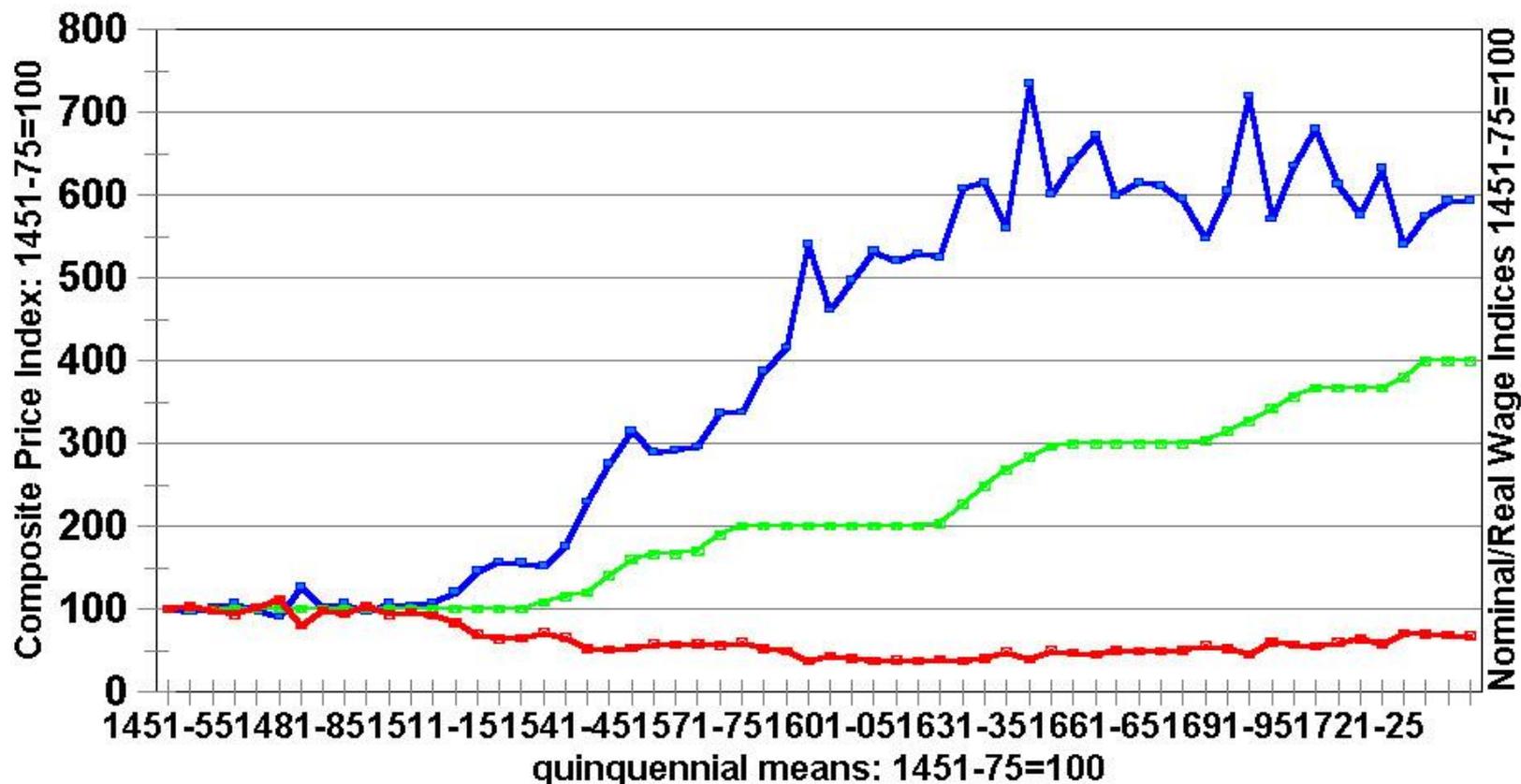
5 yr means: 1501-10=100



- Doughty Wage:IndPrice Ratio
- England Composite Price Index
- ▲ Real Wage Index (harmonic)
- PBH Ind Price Index
- PBH Money Wage:Ind Price Ratio
- Doughty Ind Price Index

# Prices and Wages in England, 1451-1750

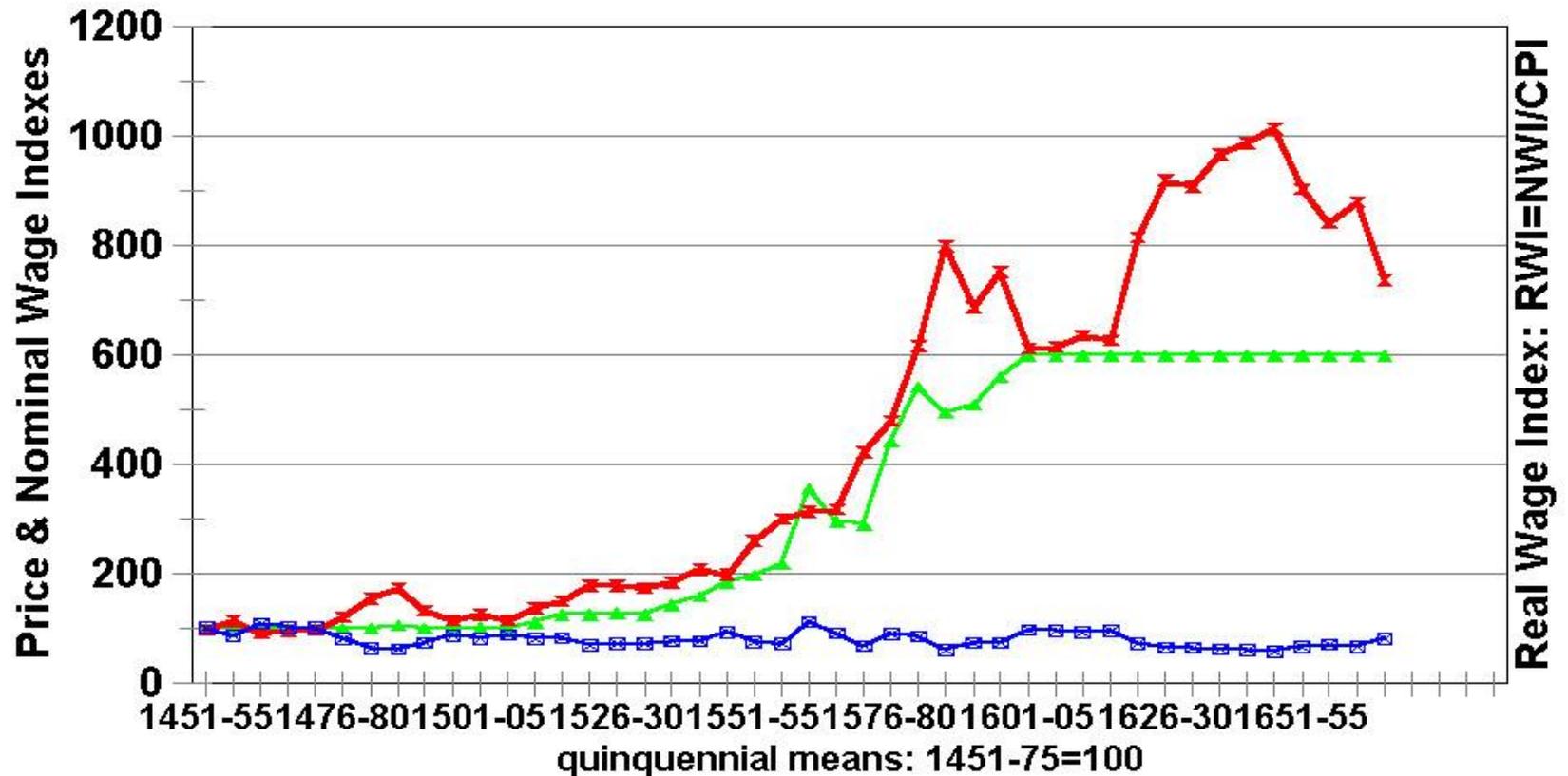
Quinquennial means: 1451-75=100



- Composite Price Index 1451-75=100
- Builders' Money Wage Index
- Builders' Real Wage Index

# Prices and Wages in Brabant, 1451-1670

5 yr means: mean 1451-75=100



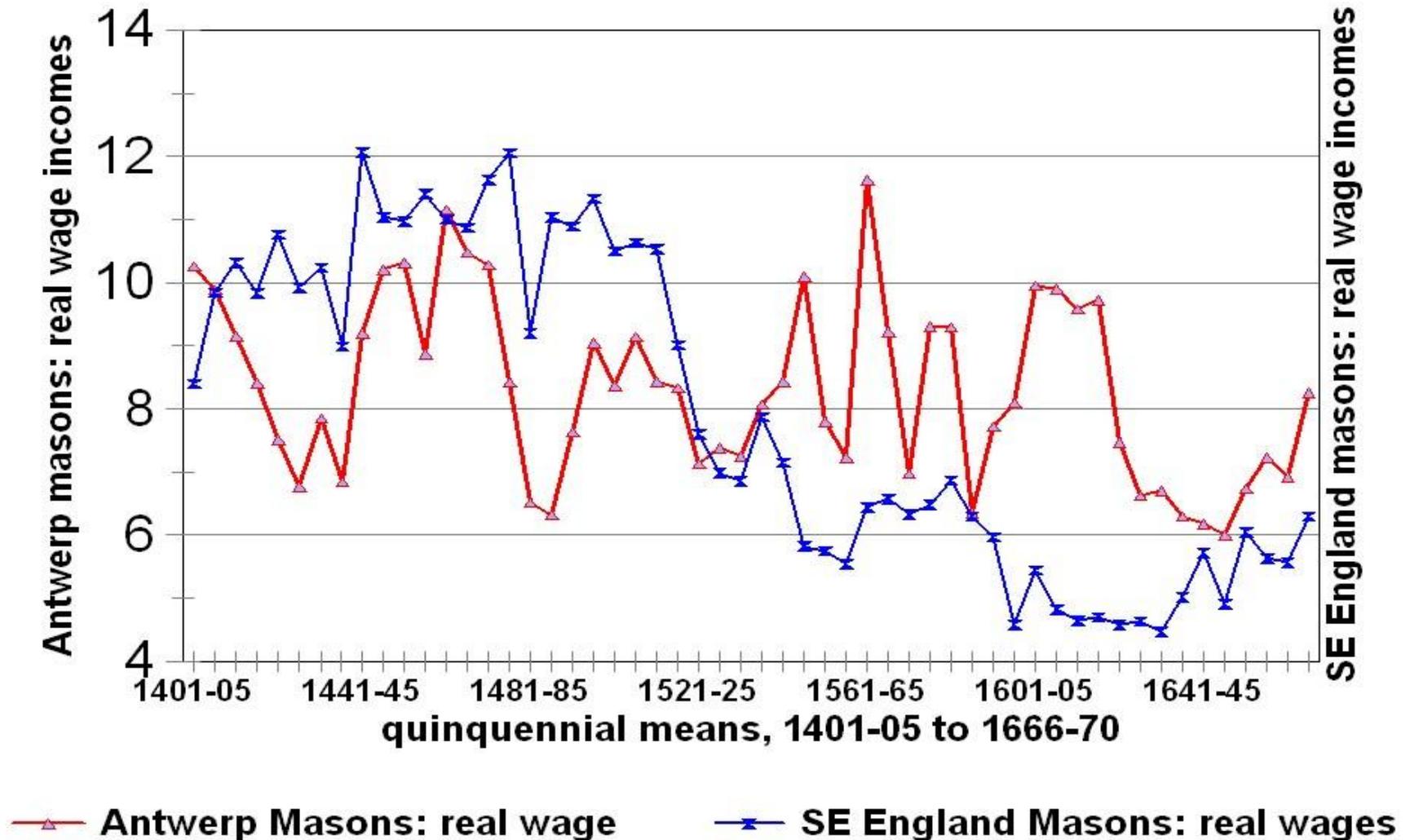
—▲— Nominal Wage Index

—■— Consumer Price Index (1451-75=100)

—□— Real Wage Index (harmonic means)

# Masons' Real Wages: Antwerp & England

real wages: consumer baskets 1401-1670



# The KUZNETS CURVE: 1

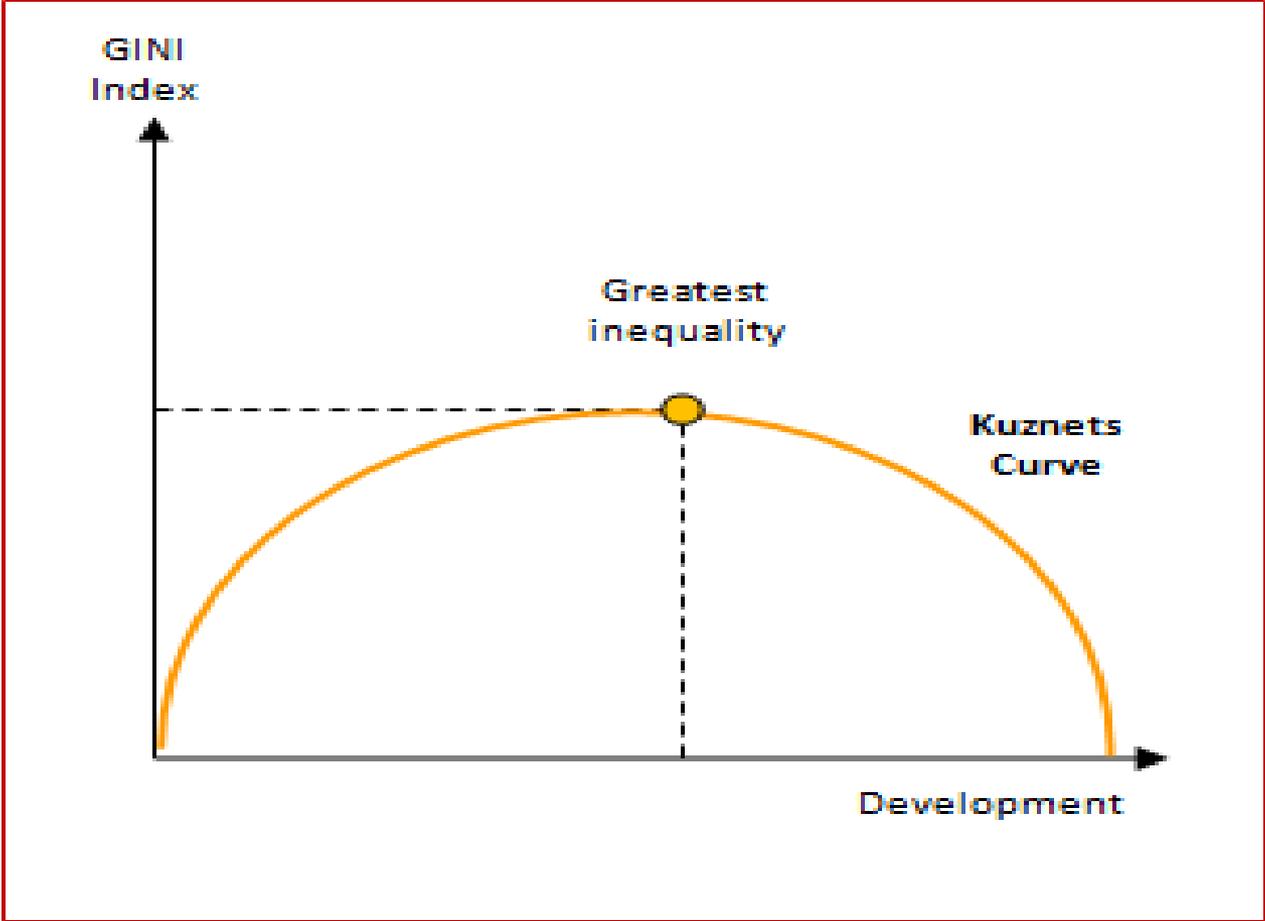
- 1) **The U-Curve:** a new perspective on the relationship between population growth, economic growth, and living standard
- - a new look at the early-modern Malthusian problem
- 2) **Simon Kuznets (1901-85):** Russian-born US economist who won Nobel Prize in Economics in 1971: 'for his empirically founded interpretation of economic growth'

# The KUZNETS CURVE: 2

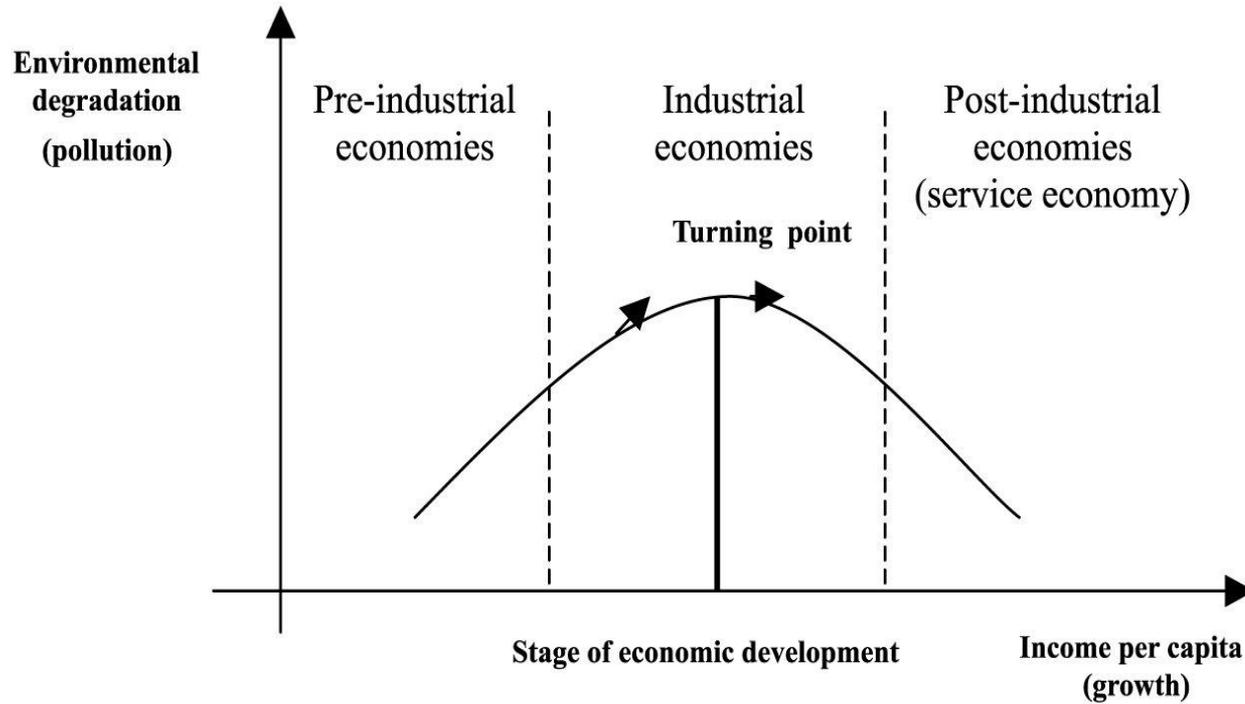
- 1) **Modern economic growth and industrialization:** begins by shifting incomes and wealth from lower to upper economic strata: from wage-earners to profit/rent earning entrepreneurs
- 2) **Entrepreneurs use such wealth accumulations to create new wealth** → economic growth → while reducing real incomes of lower classes: i.e., with more highly skewed income distributions

# The KUZNETS CURVE: 3

- 3) **Fruits of modern economic growth** →  $\Delta$  **increased productivity** → raising real incomes for all of society, including lower classes
- 4) **Applicability to Price Revolution era (1520-1640)?**: No evidence of any turn to rising real wages – which continue to fall
  - - **because of Kuznets or Malthusian curves?**
- 5) **No such rise in RW until 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Industrial Revolution era**, from the 1840s (or more, from the 1870s): examined in ECO 303Y



# Kuznets Curve



# Lorenz Curve: Income Distribution

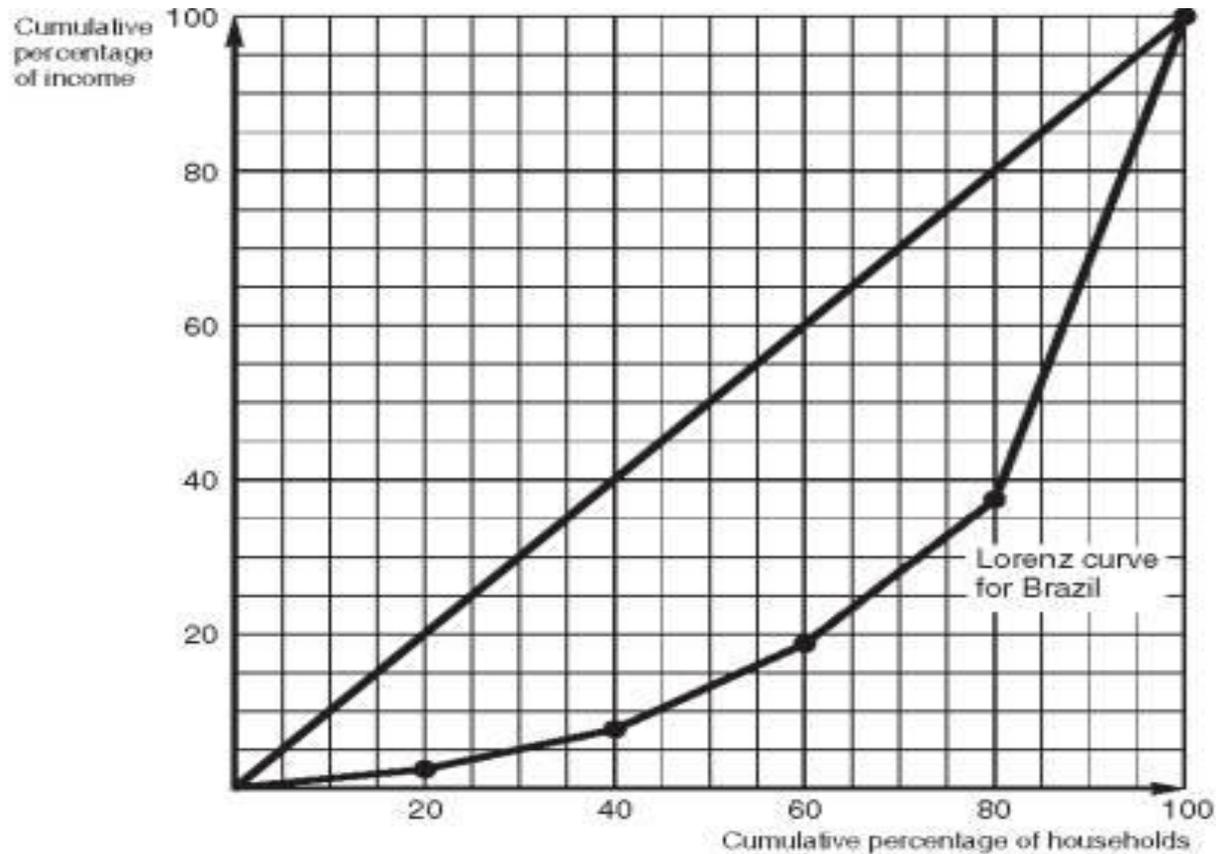


FIGURE 6-2

# The Era of the General Crisis: ca. 1620 – ca. 1750

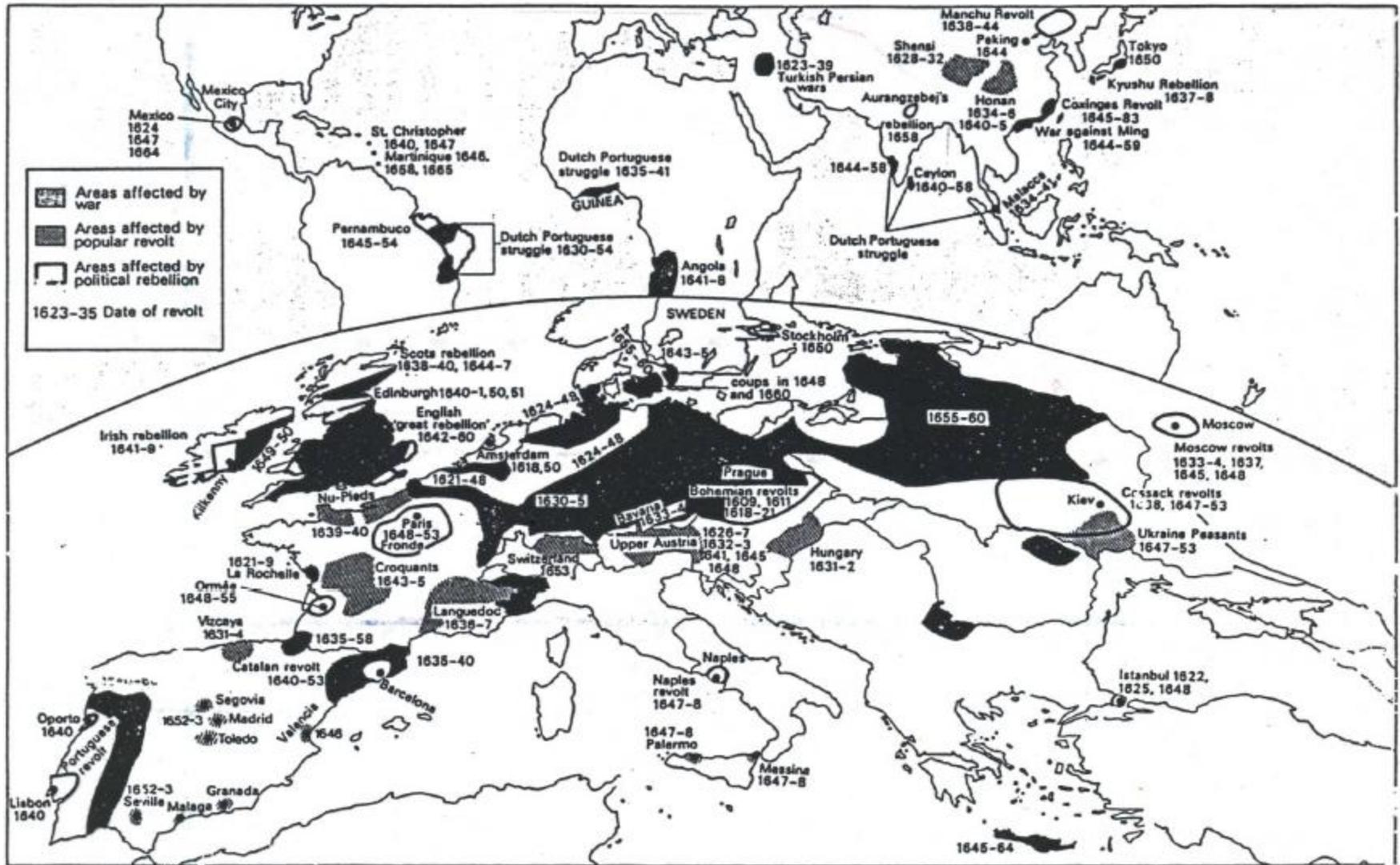
- 1) **Neither demographic nor economic growth continued from the Price Revolution era** into the era of the modern Industrial Revolution
- 2) **An intervening era known as the ‘General Crisis’ era: ca. 1620 – ca. 1750**
- 3) **Main Economic Features:**
  - a) **demographic decline** or stagnation
  - b) **increased warfare (30 Yrs War) → commercial crises → industrial declines**
  - c) **deflation** or price stagnation
  - d) **but evidence of rises** in real wages: wage stickiness

# Hobsbawm & the General Crisis 1

- 1) **Eric Hobsbawm (b. 1917)**: British Marxist historian who put forward his Marxist thesis of a 'General Crisis' in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (ca. 1620 – 1750) to explain origins of modern capitalism
- 2) **Hobsbawm opposed both demographic and monetary explanations for the General Crisis**
  - that is true of almost all Marxist historians

# Hobsbawm & the General Crisis 2

- 3) **Chief features of Hobsbawm's 'Crisis':** -- involving 'internal contradictions', crises → resolutions (promoting capitalism), in:
  - a) **the Feudal capitalist economy:** chiefly of Italy
  - b) **the Home Market** (in western Europe):
  - c) **The Eastern Markets:** East of the Elbe (eastern Germany, Bohemia, Poland, Russia, etc)
  - d) **The Overseas Markets:** the Crisis of 'Old Colonialism' → producing 'New Colonialism'



MAP I The 'General Crisis'

# 'General Crisis' Era: Demographic Reverses, c. 1620 – c. 1740

- (1) **Evidence for demographic reverses: decline or stagnation – from the 1620s:**
- - **Germany & Central Europe:** lost perhaps 30%-35%: but population flights from 30 Yrs War (1619-1648)?
- - **Italy and Spain:** from 20% to 30% losses
- - **France:** up to 20%, especially in war-afflicted areas
- - **even England and Netherlands** lost some population: see graphs
- - **England:** decline from 5.6 million (1650) to 5.3 million (1590): no sustained growth until 1740s
- - **most European regions had recovered from any losses by the 1740s:** hardly comparable to late Middle Ages

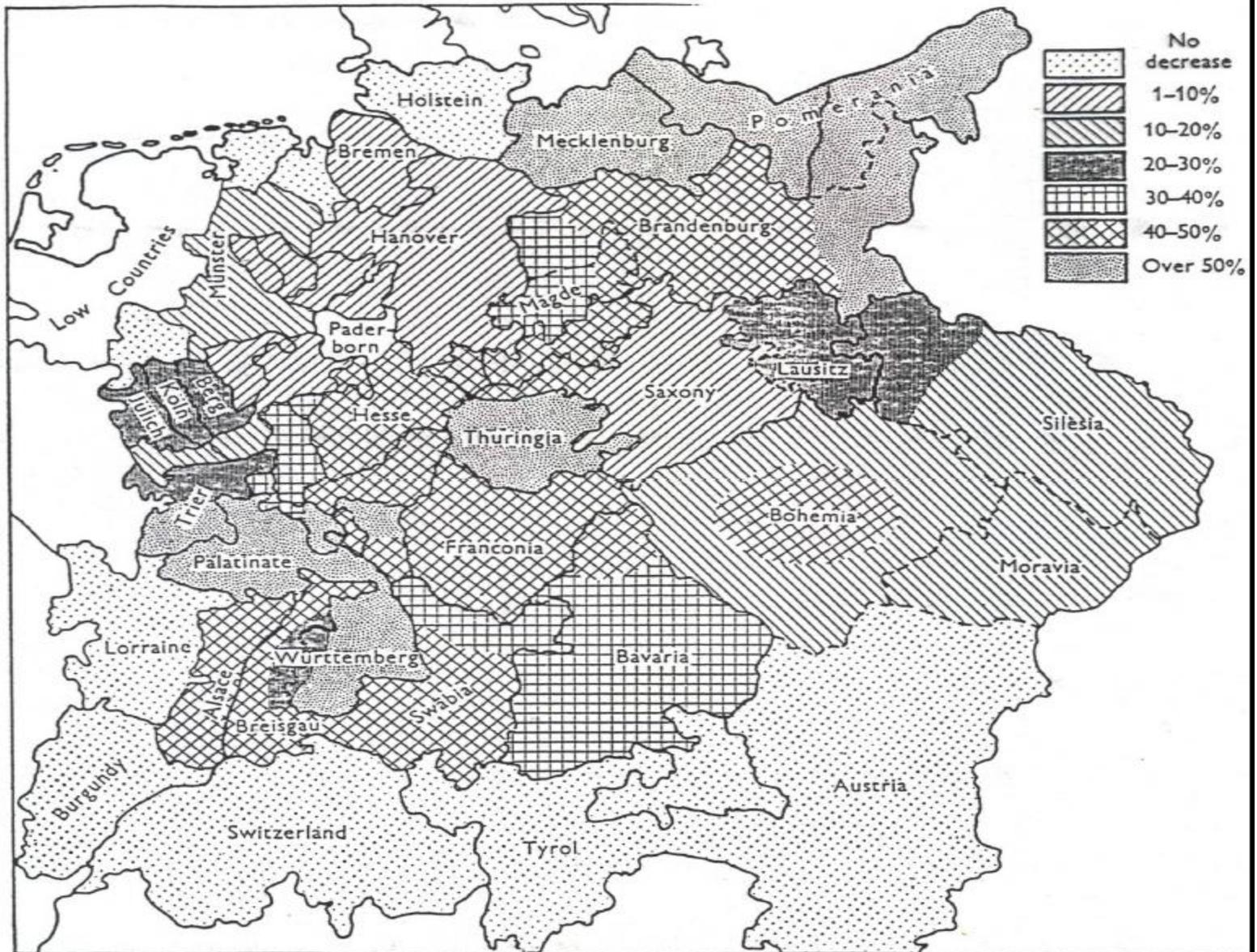
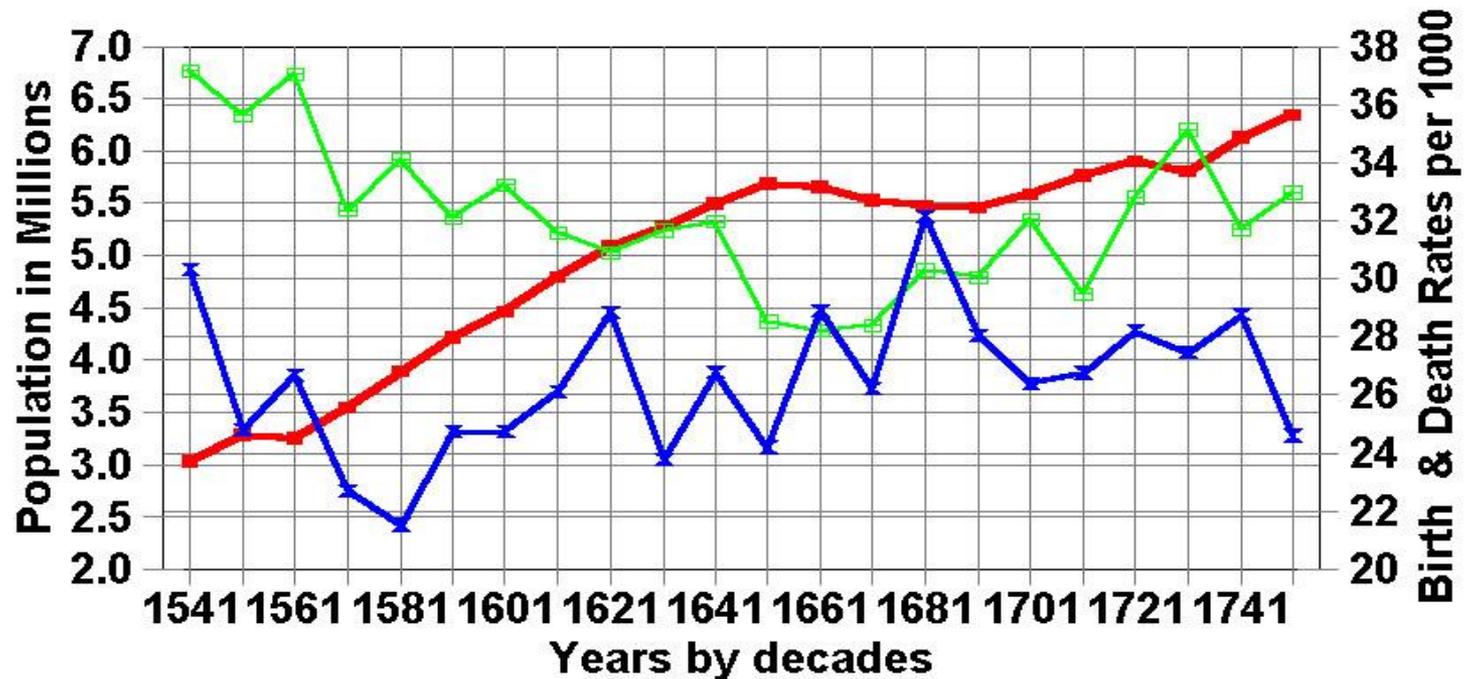


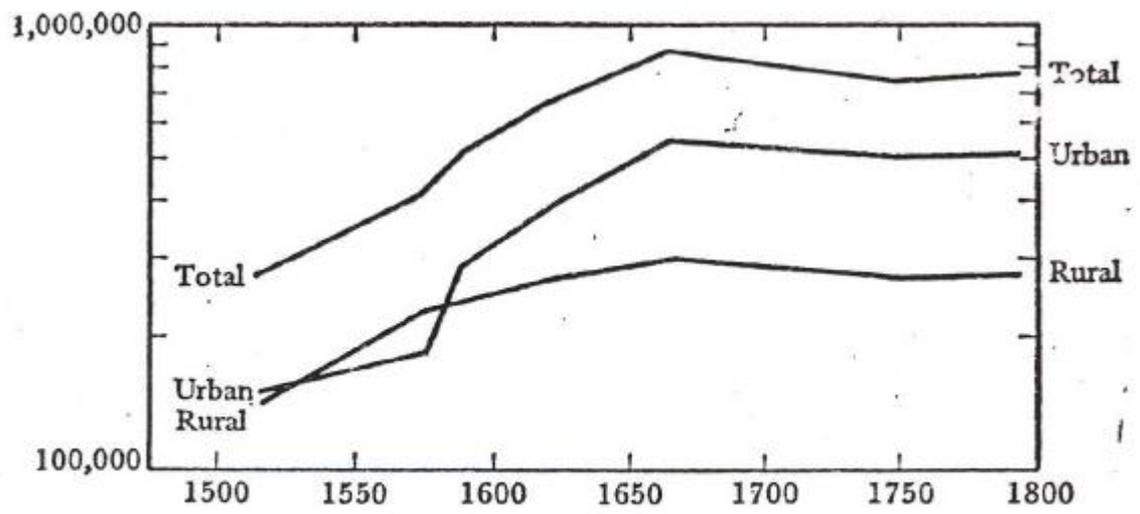
Fig. 1. Population decrease in the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years War.  
(After G. Franz.)

# POPULATION: ENGLAND & WALES 1541-1741

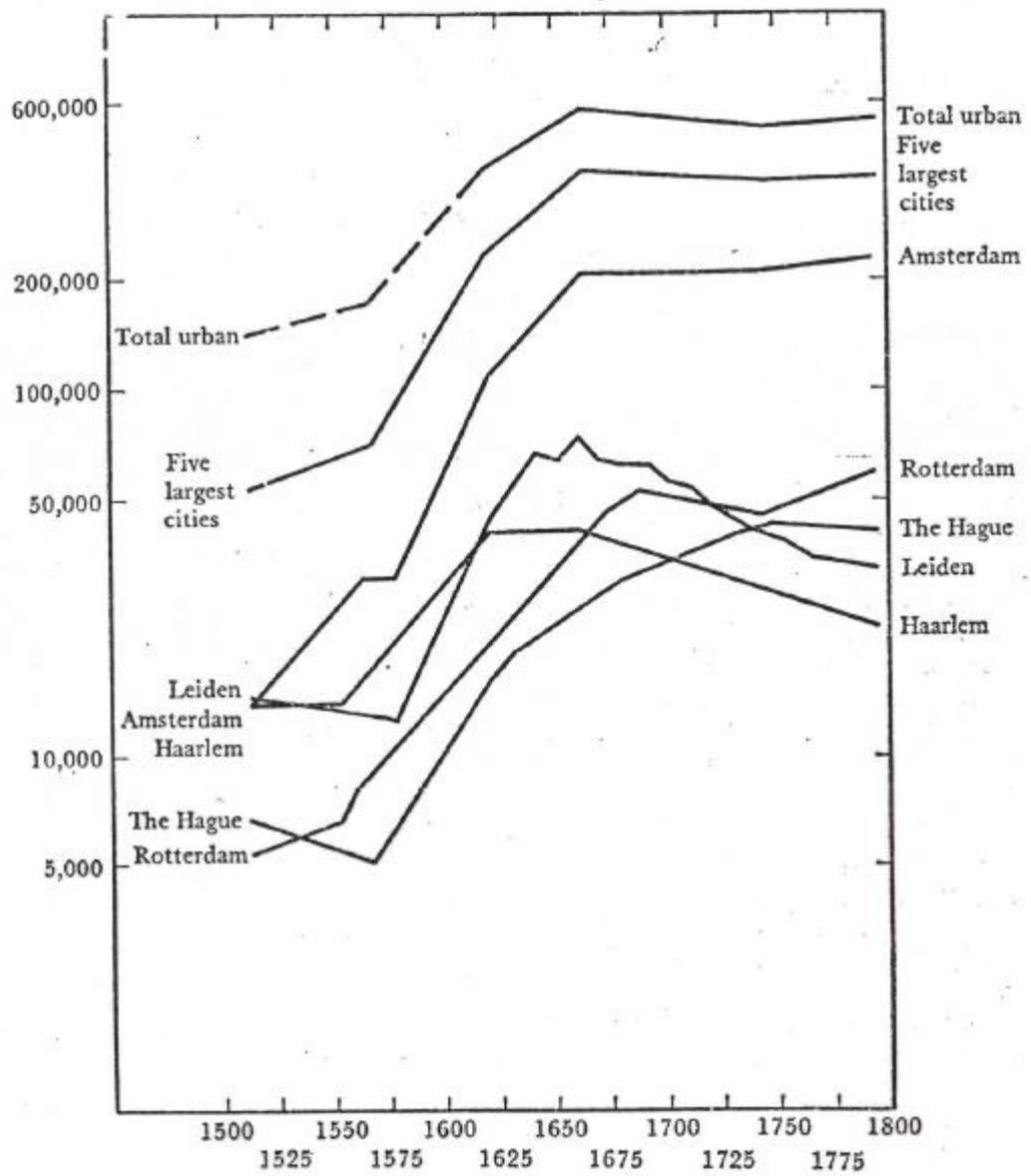
in millions, by decades



Population in Millions Birth Rate per 1000 Death Rate per 1000



Graph 3.6. Estimated Total Population of Holland, 1514-1795.



Graph 3.2. Urban Population of Holland, 1514-1795.

# Causes of Demographic Reverses?

- (1) **Increased Malthusian Factors?**
- (2) **Warfare → famines → increased mortality from diseases – and adverse climate changes??**
- (3) **Role of Climate: the ‘Little Ice Age’**
  - - a) **causes not fully known:**
  - - b) **sun-spot cycles: the ‘Maunder Minimum’?**

Corrected Global Temperature Reconstruction, 95% CI

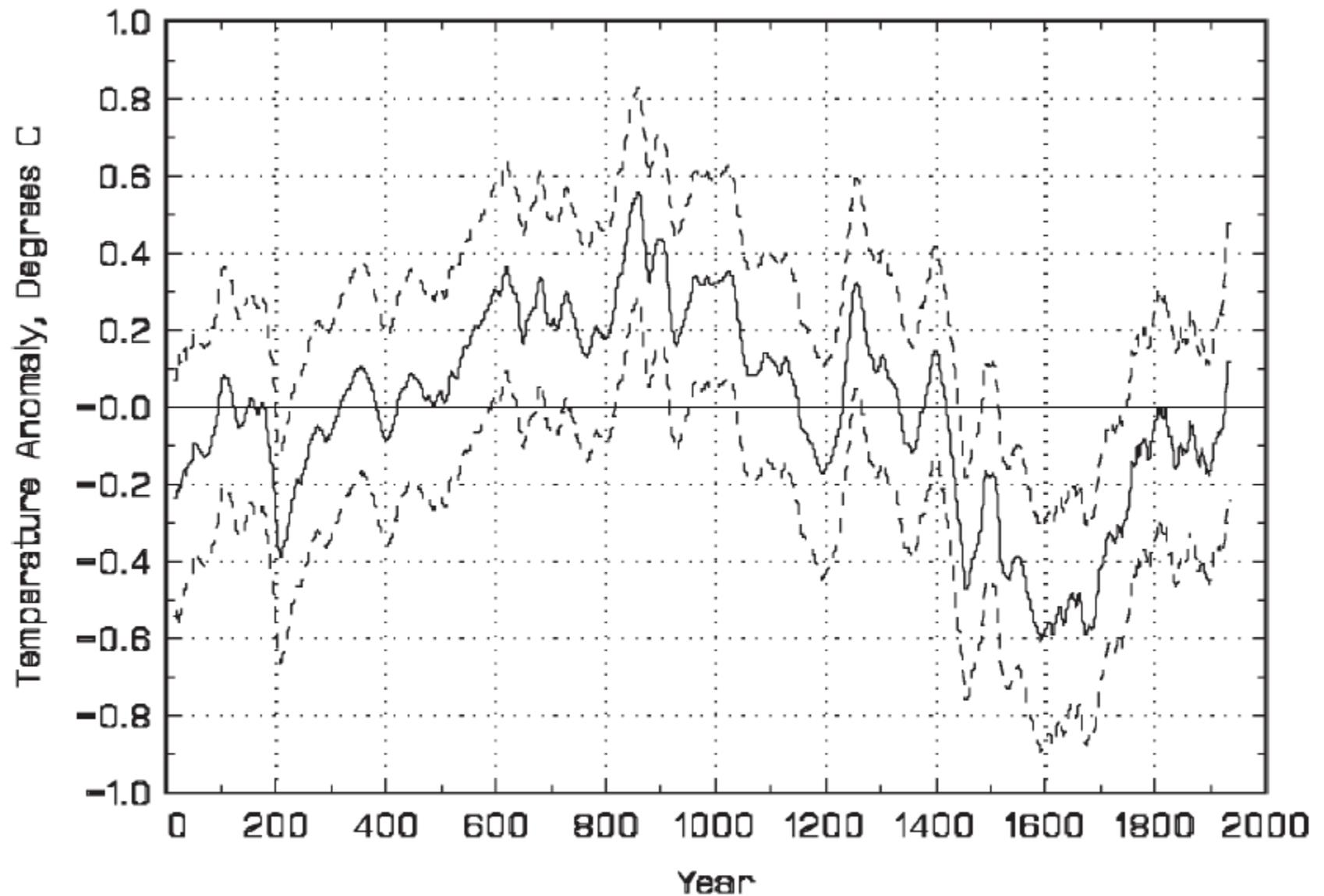


Figure 2. Corrected reconstruction with 95% confidence intervals.

Data for this graph is online at <<http://www.econ.ohio-state.edu/jhm/AGW/Loehle/>>

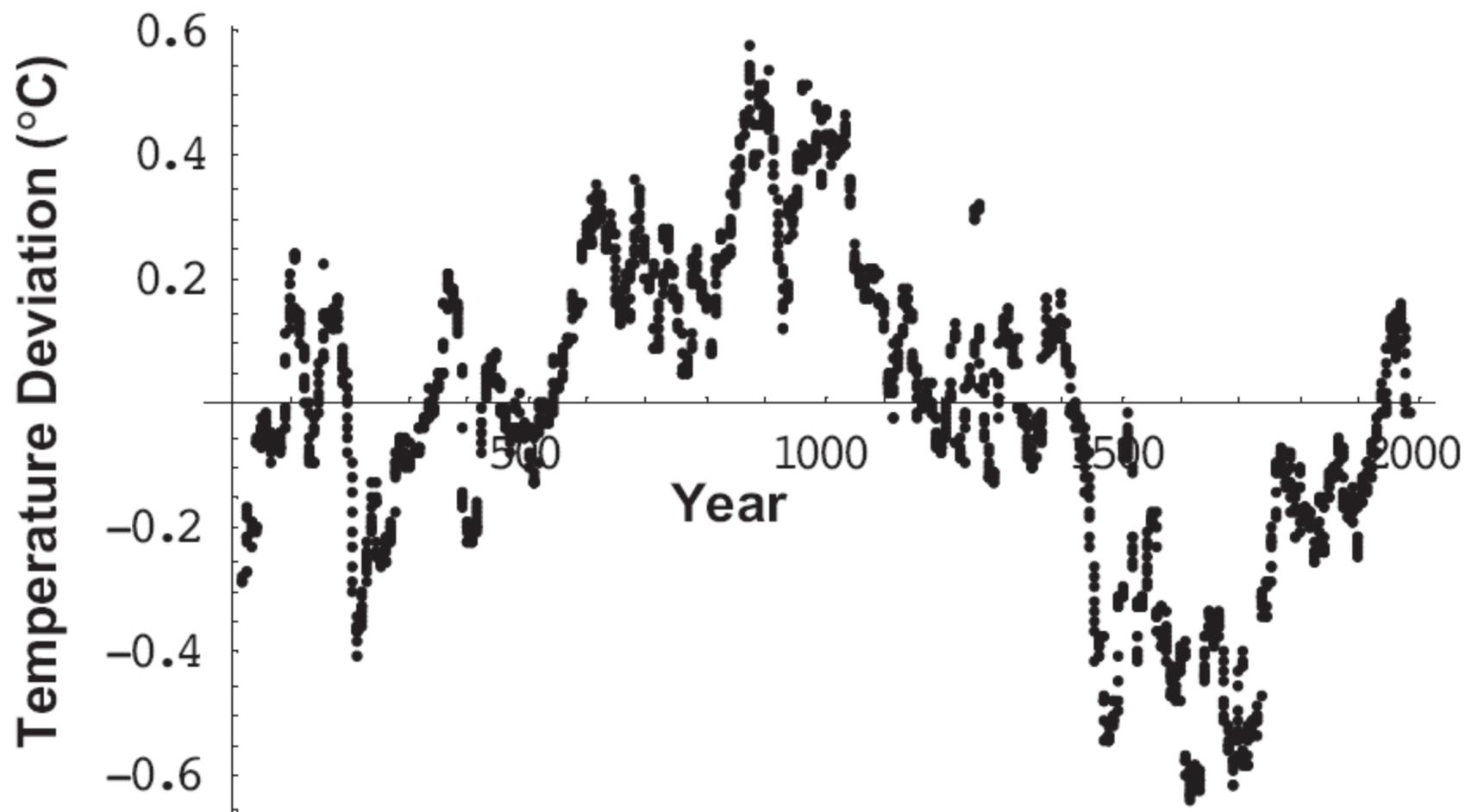


Figure 1. Mean of temperature data for 18 series.

Data archived at <http://www.ncasi.org/programs/areas/climate/LoehleE&E2007.csv>

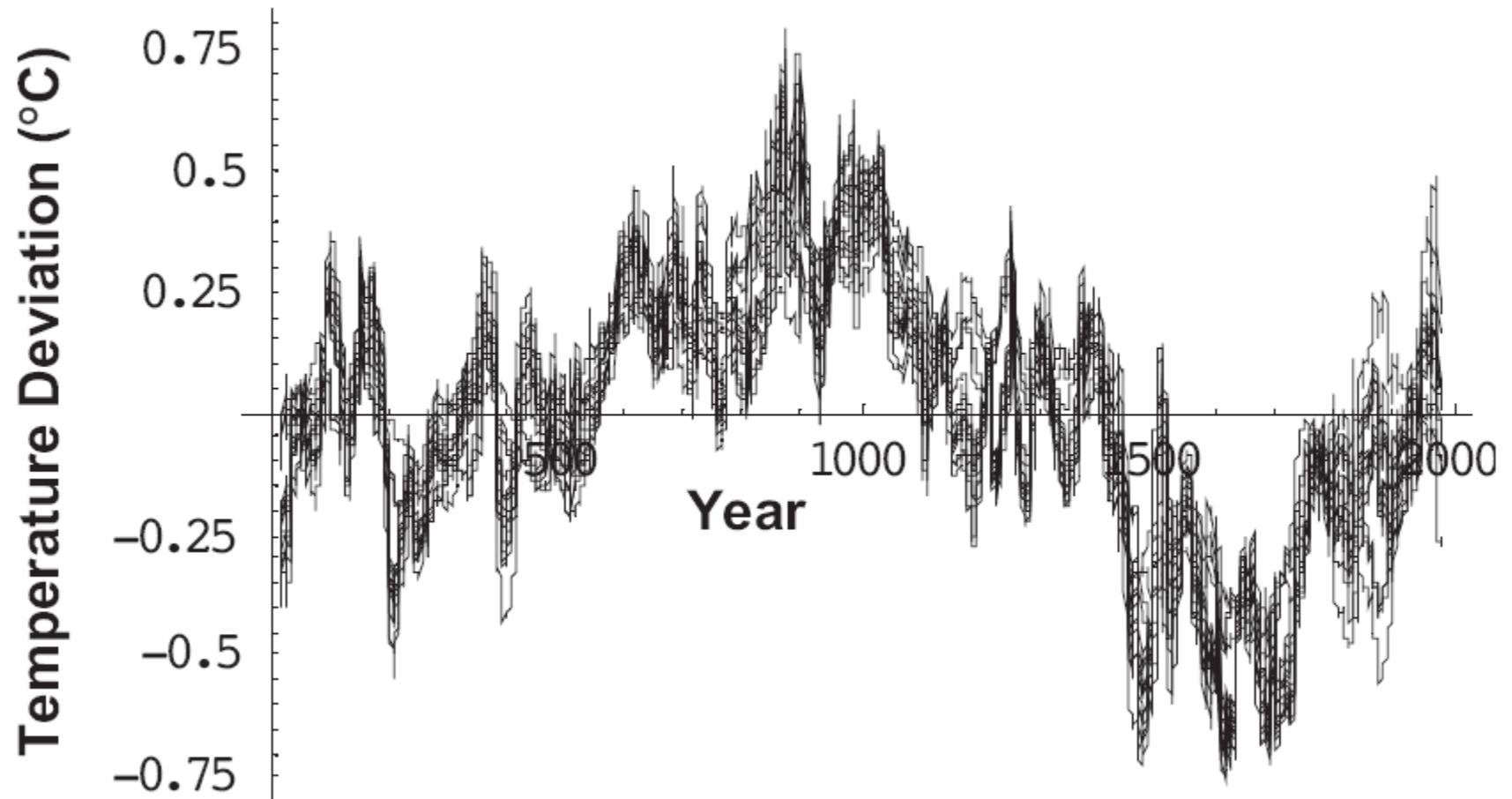


Figure 3. Random selection of 14 data sets at a time without duplicates, repeated 18 times, then overlaid, showing robustness of the pattern.

# Demographic Reverses: Climate

- c) **Economic Consequences of Climate Changes:**
- - **negative impact on agriculture:** shortened growing season + lower outputs per acre
- - **increased costs of food + fuel consumption**
- - **effects on fisheries?** not known
- - **increased famines + malnutrition** → reduced resistance to diseases
- - **ecological + biological impact on bacteria + viruses??** yet to be fully explored

# Demographic Crises: Warfare

- 1) **Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648)**: involving most of Germany, Poland, Sweden, Russia, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and the Low Countries (north & south)
- - **instigating civil wars, anarchy, brigandage, emigration**
- - **evidence of depopulation in Germany + Central Europe**: possibly mass flights of refugees rather than net population decline
- -2) **effect of sustained, chronic warfare**: disrupting food production + distribution; malnutrition; spreading diseases
- - 3) **demographic effects seemed to have delayed consequences**: in generation following 1648 (Peace of Westphalia)

# Demographic Crises: Diseases 1

- a) **Bubonic Plagues:** revival 1630s to 1670s
- b) **Syphilis: 'The French Disease':**
  - - from French invasions of Italy: 1494 - 1559
  - - Did Columbus (1492) bring it back from the Americas (see lecture notes)?
  - - **probable origin: Portuguese slave trade**
  - - **from West Africa, from 1440s:** mutation of African yaws

# Demographic Crises: Diseases 2

- - **syphilis**: far more virulent and far more contagious (not just sexually) than now: most diseases mutate into milder forms
- c) **small pox**: probably the most virulent killer
- - Spanish conquests of Americas: their small pox wiped out most of the indigenous population (those not killed with guns)
- d) **Others: pneumonia, typhus, tuberculosis, amoebic dysentery** (cholera: not till 1820s)

# Demographic Crises: Diseases 3

- (d) **Bacteria & water-borne diseases**
- - **bacterial transmission of diseases unknown** before discoveries of Koch (1876) and Pasteur (1878)
- - **Miasma theory** held sway for centuries: diseases spread by atmospheric vapours
- - **Koch + Pasteur discoveries** → water purification systems
- e) **alternatives to water & milk as beverages**
- - **medieval**: beer and wine
- - **early-modern**: introduction of tea & coffee (Asian)
- f) **negative impact of  $\Delta$  urbanization**: increased urban pollution (water, etc) and contagion: so that urban death rates always exceeded birth rates, before late 19<sup>th</sup> century

# European Marriage Pattern: Fertility Problems 1

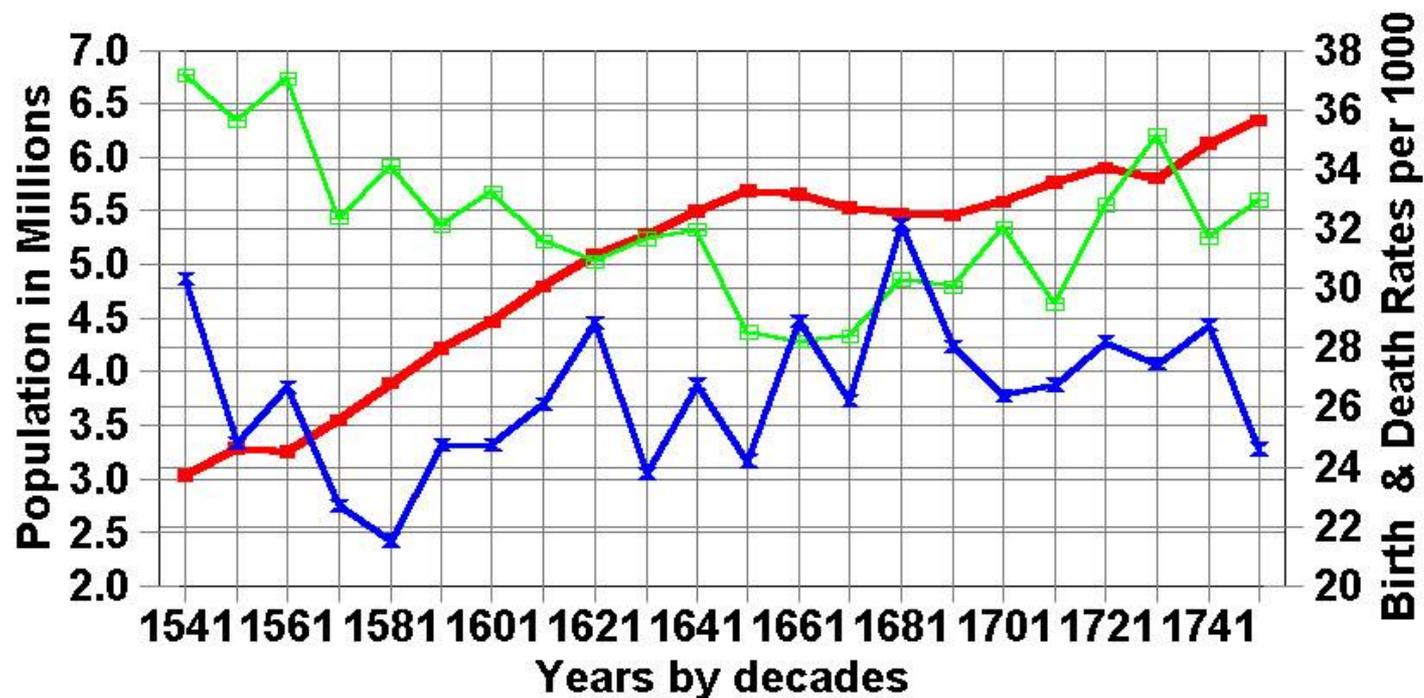
- (1) **Falling Birth Rates: and the EMP**
- - **birth rates fell before death rates rose**
- - **England:** birth rate fell from 37.8/1000 in 1540s to 31.50 in 1590s to 25.74 in 1650s
- (2) **Changes in European Marriage Pattern:**
- - **later age of 1<sup>st</sup> marriage** → smaller families
- - **increased female celibacy:** higher proportion of women who never married

# European Marriage Pattern: Fertility Problems 2

- (3) **Service in Husbandry, EMP, and birth rates:**
- - **agrarian institution:** farmers hired young women as both farm and household labour, as virtual members of the family household (necessarily unmarried)
- - food, board, annual cash payments (later used as dowries)
- - such women often worked to late 20s
- - **hence later average age of first marriage + higher celibacy rates**
- (4) **Industrial Revolution: offering better paid employment** → rapid decline of this institution → lower age of 1<sup>st</sup> marriage → reduced celibacy rates → higher birth rates + larger families

# POPULATION: ENGLAND & WALES 1541-1741

in millions, by decades



—●— Population in Millions    —□— Birth Rate per 1000    —▲— Death Rate per 1000

## Demographic Profile of Colyton, 1560 - 1837

Period	Average Age of First Marriage for:		Completed Family Size of Women who married under 30	Period	Life Expectancy Both Sexes at Birth
	Males	Females			
1560-1646	27	27	6.4	1538-1624	43 years
1647-1719	28	30	4.2	1625-1699	37
1720-1769	26	27	4.4	1700-1774	42
1770-1837	27	25	5.9		

**Sources:**

E.A. Wrigley, 'Family Limitation in Pre-Industrial England', *Economic History Review*, 2nd ser. 19 (1966), 82-109; E.A. Wrigley, *Population and History* (1969), p. 87.

## Marriages, Births, and Deaths in Colyton, Devonshire, 1550 - 1830

Rates per thousand, in nine-year moving averages

E. A. Wrigley, 'Family Limitation in Pre-Industrial England', *Economic History Review*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ser., 19 (1966).

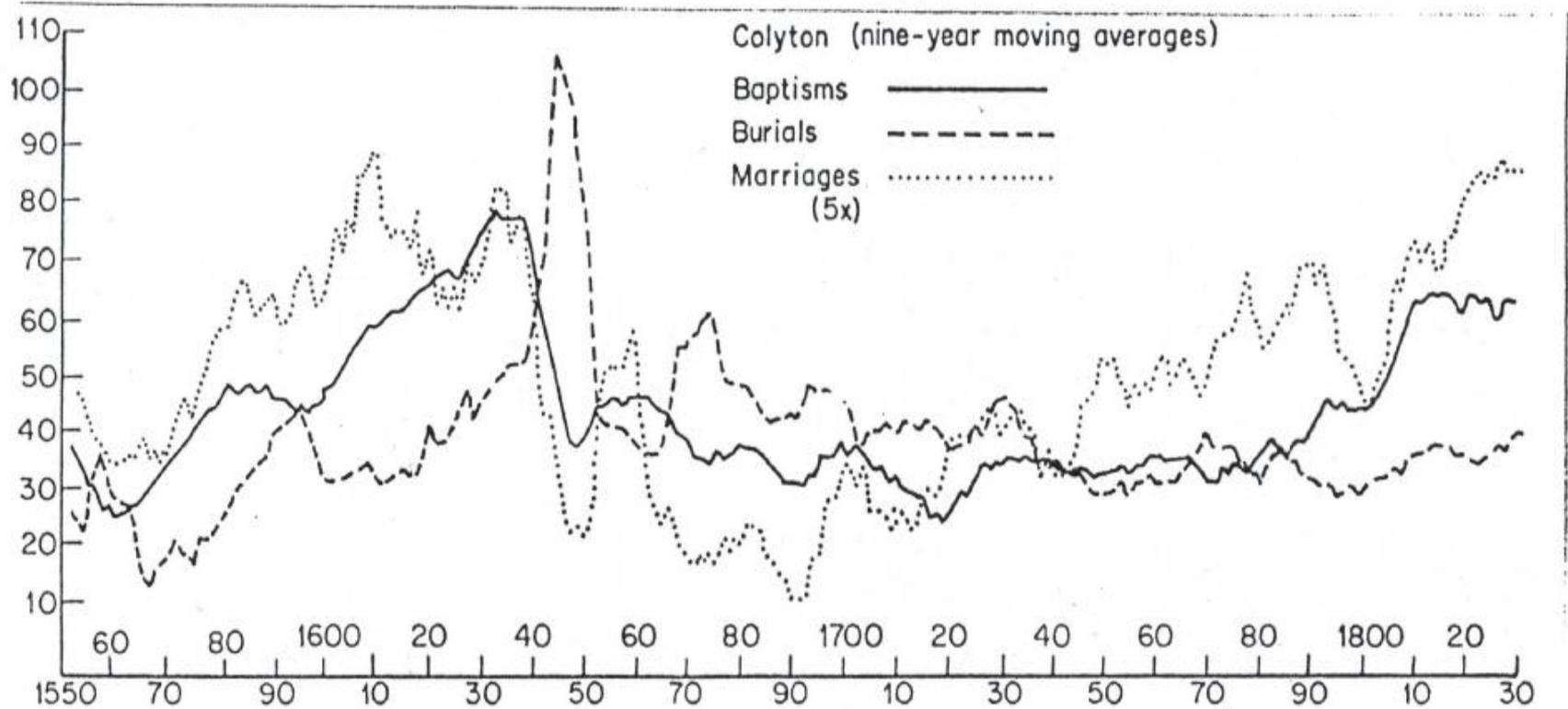


FIGURE I

## Changing Demography of Colyton, Devonshire (England)

### Average (Mean) Age of First Marriage, 1560-1837

Period	Men	Women
1560 - 99	28.1 years	27.0 years
1600 - 29	27.4	27.3
1630 - 46	25.8	26.5
1647 - 59	26.9	30.0
1660 - 99	27.6	28.8
1700 - 19	28.1	30.7
1720 - 49	26.2	27.2
1750 - 69	25.0	26.3
1770 - 99	27.6	26.4
1800 - 24	25.6	24.9
1825 - 37	25.9	23.3

**Mean Age of First Marriage, i.e., in Bachelor-Spinsters Marriages**

**in England (various counties, over time), in ten-year intervals**

<b>DECADE</b>	<b>MALES</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>
1590 - 99	29.30	25.60
1600 - 09	28.30	25.70
1610 - 19	27.50	25.60
1620 - 29	27.60	25.20
1630 - 39	27.30	25.20
1640 - 49	27.40	25.70
1650 - 59	27.50	25.60
1660 - 69	27.40	25.90
1670 - 79	28.00	26.20
1680 - 89	27.70	25.80
1690 - 99	27.10	25.90
1700 - 09	27.40	26.00
1710 - 19	27.30	26.30
1720 - 29	27.00	25.90
1730 - 39	26.90	25.50
1740 - 49	26.50	24.80
1750 - 59	26.10	25.00
1760 - 69	25.90	24.50

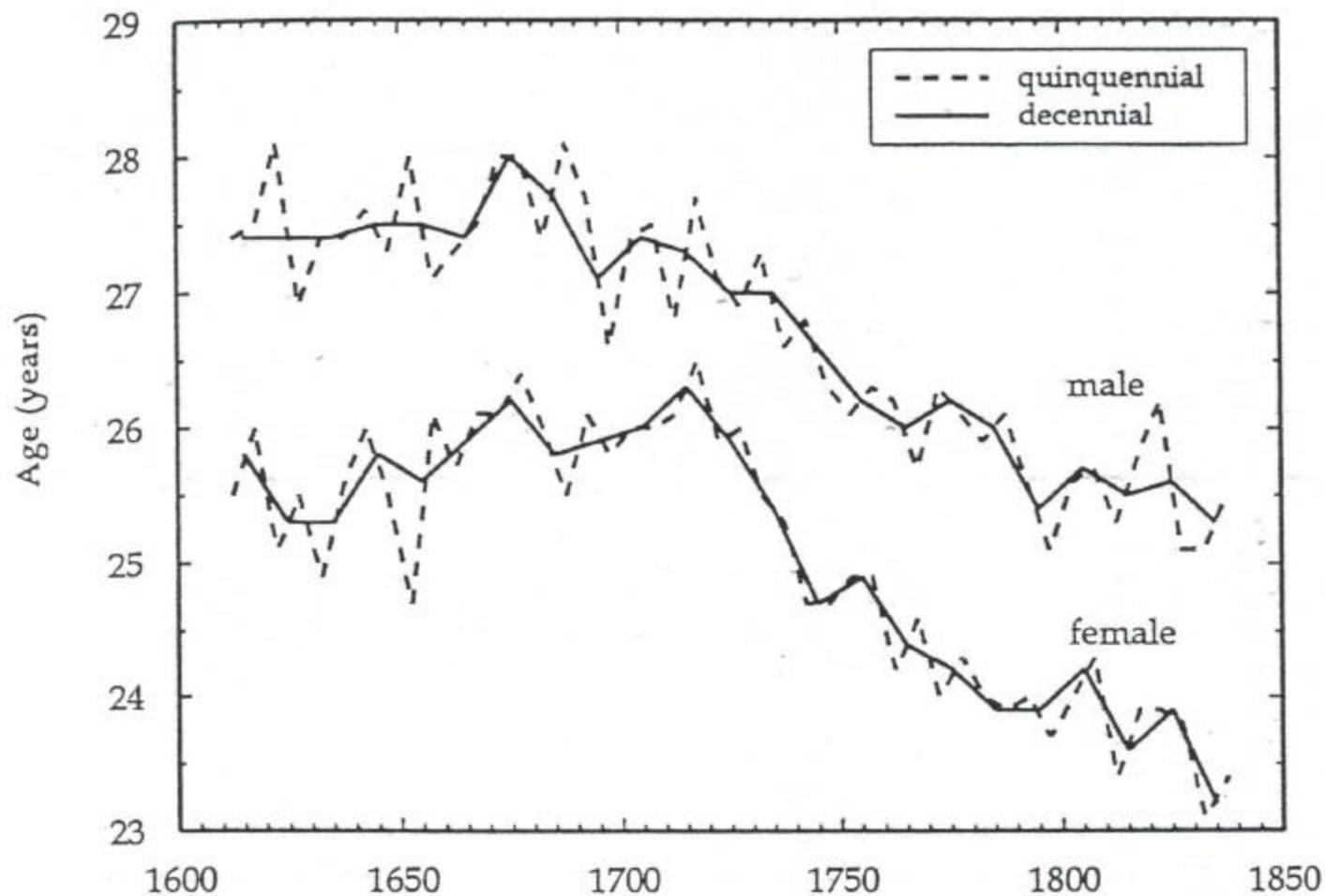


Figure 5.2 Mean age at first marriage: bachelor/spinster marriages (quinquennial and decennial data)

Note: each reading refers to the decade or quinquennium beginning in the year indicated: thus the 1620 reading refers to 1620–5 or 1620–9 as appropriate.

# Other Demographic Factors

- (4) **Contraception**: more significant in 17<sup>th</sup> century? – condoms from sheep membranes
- (5) **English Emigration**: especially to North American + Caribbean colonies
- - **Wrigley**: emigration was the major factor in population dip of the 1670s
- (6) **Dutch Emigration to East Indies**: VOC – high proportion of Dutch sailors died also

# End of the Plague Era: 1

- (1) **The End of the Bubonic Plague:**
- a) **last outbreaks:**
- - **England:** 1665: London plague
- - **France:** 1720: Marseilles plague
- - **Italy:** 1733: Messina plague (NE Sicily)
- - **Ottoman Turkish & Russian Empires:** plague remained endemic to 1820s: ended there by quarantine measures

# End of the Plague Era: 2

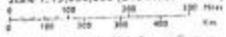
- 2) **End of the Plague: Helleiner's rat theory** (CEH, IV)
- - arrival of a newcomer, the brown (*Rattus norvegicus*) rat displaced the black rat (*Rattus rattus*), the traditional culprit: in carrying the plague-bearing fleas (bacillus: *Yersinia pestis*)
- - that brown rat was 'ecologically superior' and did not host plague fleas
- 3) **Problems with this theory: for the brown rats**
- (a) **brown rat came too late**: not till 1720s & 1730s in England & France
- (b) **did not displace black rats**: cohabited with them
- (c) **they also hosted the rat fleas with *Yersinia pestis***

# End of the Plague Era: 3

- 4) **Quarantine Measures?**
- - **strict medical isolation of travellers for 40 days** (with *cordon sanitaire* at frontiers)
- - **supposedly ended plagues in France, Russian, and Turkish Empires**
- - **but not used for London plague of 1665:** not effective till 17<sup>th</sup> century
- - **British failed in using quarantines in 20<sup>th</sup>-century India (1896-1947):** where penicillin proved effective after WWII (today: major drug is tetracycline)

EUROPE, c.1721

Scale 1:15,000,000 (240 miles = 1 inch)



- Boundary of the Holy Roman Empire
- Church Lands
- Venetian Lands
- Brandenburg-Prussia
- Lands of the House of Habsburg (Austrian Branch)
- Gr. Britain and France, united under the same ruler since 1714
- Poland and El. of Saxony, united under the same ruler 1697-1763
- Date of independence



West from Greenwich      East from Greenwich      0      20      40      60      80      100      120

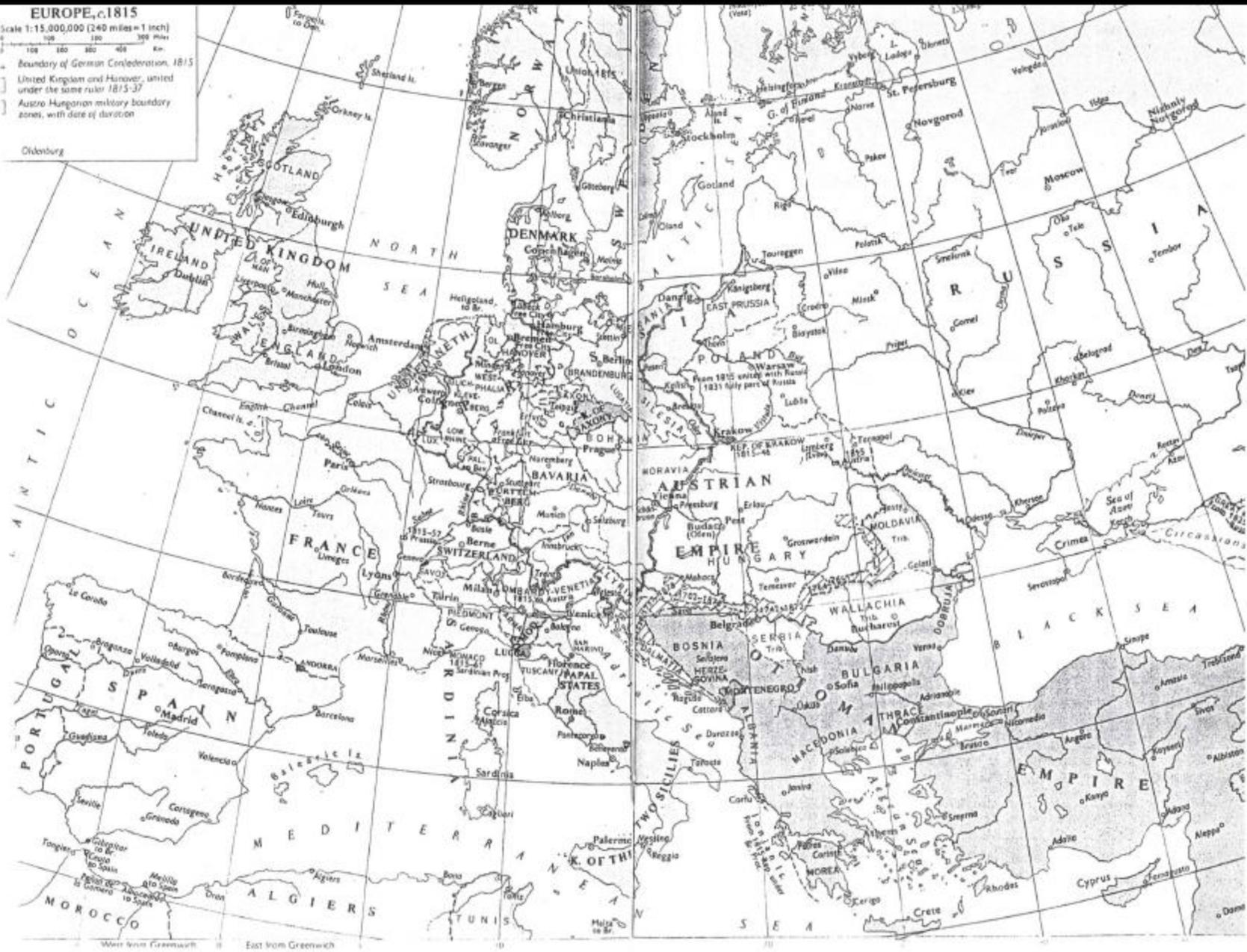
# EUROPE, c.1815

Scale 1:15,000,000 (240 miles = 1 inch)

100 200 300 Miles

- Boundary of German Confederation, 1815
- United Kingdom and Hanover, united under the same ruler 1815-37
- Austro-Hungarian military boundary zones, with date of duration

Odenburg



West from Greenwich

East from Greenwich

# End of the Plague Era: 4

- 5) **Appleby's Biological-Genetic Theory:**
- - **that surviving rats developed an immunity to plague:**
- - perhaps because of genetic changes in plague bacillus or in the fleas
- - so that rat fleas did not desert their hosts to sub-optimize by feeding on humans
- - **Appleby never explained clearly how this worked: no real proof**

# End of the Plague Era: 5

- 6) **disappearance of bubonic plague (2<sup>nd</sup> Pandemic):** remains a mystery – not yet fully explained
- 7) **But disappearance of plagues is important:**
- **meant that changes in birth rates now became the more important demographic variable**
- **even if other diseases and other mortality factors cannot be discounted – as Wrigley does (ECO 303Y)**

**English and French Population, 1681 - 1821  
in millions:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>England only</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>England as % of France</b>
<b>1681</b>	5.28	4.93	22.4	22%
<b>1821</b>	12.31	11.49	30.2	38%

**Growth Rates of English, French, and Dutch  
Populations from 1681 to 1821 (% per annum)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>% per annum</b>	<b>Overall % growth</b>
<b>England</b>	0.95%	133%
<b>France</b>	0.28%	39%
<b>Netherlands</b>	0.06%	8%

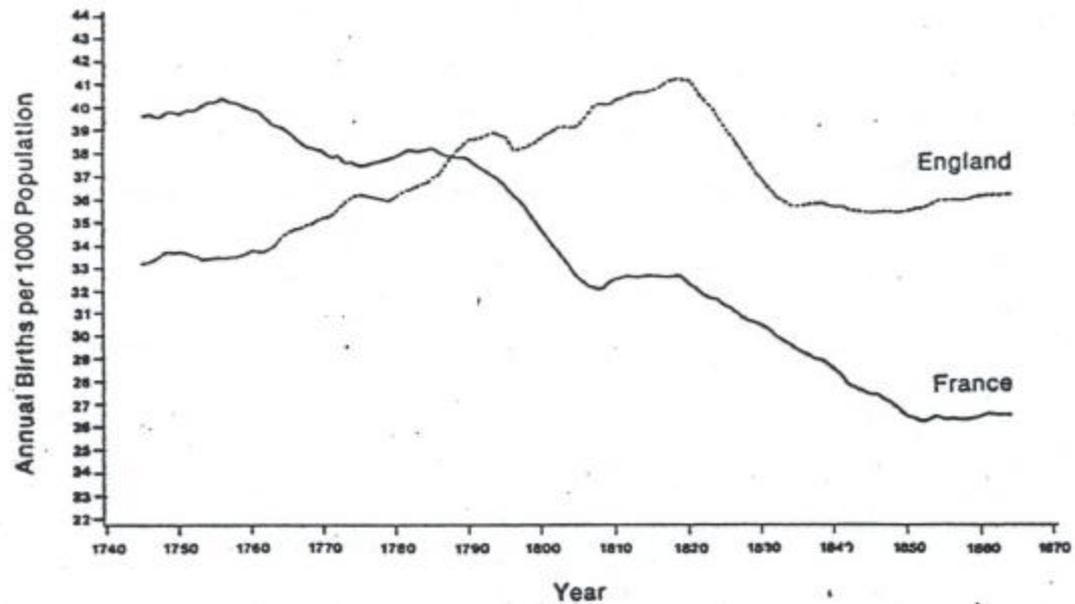


FIGURE 2  
CRUDE BIRTH RATES IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND, 1740-1869

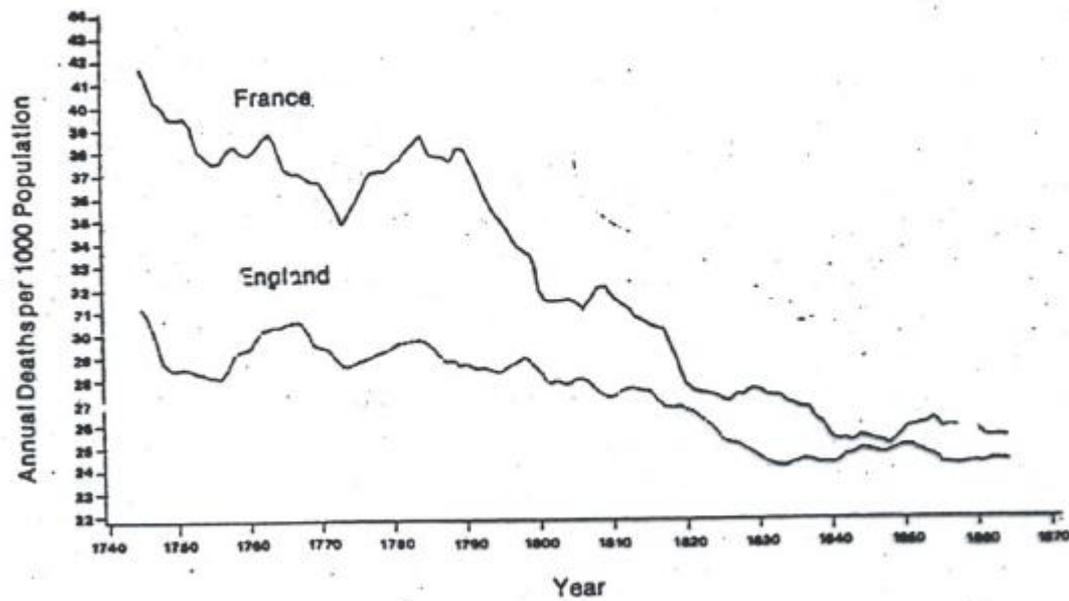


FIGURE 3  
CRUDE DEATH RATES IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND, 1740-1869