

ECO 301Y

Economic History of Later Medieval and Early Modern Europe

Topic No. 3 [4]: Feudal Governments, War, Taxation, and 'Economic Crises' in Later-Medieval Europe, 1280 - 1500

Revised: 19 August 2013

READINGS: arranged, by topic section, in the chronological order of original publication. The more important are indicated by asterisks *

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 - (b) No. 23: 'The Economic Meaning of War and Protection', pp. 383-98. [Reprinted from The Journal of Social Philosophy and Jurisprudence, 7 (1942), 254-70.]
 - (c) No. 24: 'Force and Enterprise in the Creation of Oceanic Commerce', pp. 399-411. [Reprinted from The Tasks of Economic History, supplement to The Journal of Economic History, 10 (1950), 19-31.]
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- 5. Frederic C. Lane, 'Naval Actions and Fleet Organization, 1499 - 1502', in Renaissance Venice, ed. J. R. Hale (London: Faber and Faber, 1973), pp. 146-73, reprinted in Frederic C. Lane, Studies in Venetian Social and Economic History, ed. Benjamin Kohl and Reinhold Mueller, Variorum Reprints CS 247 (London: Variorum Reprints, 1987).
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- a) James Tracy, 'Introduction', pp. 1 - 21.
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- c) M. M. Pearson, 'Merchants and States', pp. 41 - 116.
- d) Thomas A. Brady, Jr., 'The Rise of Merchant Empires, 1400 - 1700: A European Counterpoint', pp. 117 - 60.
- e) Geoffrey Parker, 'Europe and the Wider World, 1500 - 1700: The Military Balance', pp. 161 - 95.
- f) Anne Pérotin-Dumon, 'The Pirate and the Emperor: Power and the Law on the Seas, 1450 - 1850', pp. 196 - 227.
- g) Russell R. Menard, 'Transport Costs and Long-Range Trade, 1300 - 1800: Was There a European 'Transport Revolution' in the Early Modern Era?' pp. 228 - 75.
- h) Jacob M. Price, 'Transaction Costs: A Note on Merchant Credit and the Organization of Private Trade', pp. 276 - 97.
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- * 38. Kelly DeVries, Medieval Warfare, 1300 - 1450, The International Library of Essays on Military History (Farnham, England, and Burlington, Vt: Ashgate, 2010).
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This essay, an application of both the Van der Wee-Peeters model (1970) and of the North-Thomas transactions cost model (1973, 1984-5), analyses the impact of warfare, taxation, and protection costs upon the changing structure of the international textiles trades in the half-century before the Hundred Years' War and the Black Death. In the same volume, see also the following essay, as indicated in B. 11 above.

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WARFARE: Questions for Discussion

1. Discuss the 'costs and benefits' of warfare for the late-medieval Western European economy: particularly the Anglo-French wars from the 1290s to the 1450s. Who gained and who lost from this warfare: particularly in terms of the various sectors of the economies (and thus regions) of western Europe; in terms of various industries and trades.
2. How was late-medieval warfare financed in western Europe; and what impact did such financing, apart from warfare itself, have upon the late-medieval economy: benefits and costs?
3. In particular, to what extent was coinage debasement a war-induced fiscal policy (rather than a monetary policy); and what was the impact of such coinage debasements upon the western European economies from the 1290s to the 1490s: the benefits and costs?
4. Discuss the Maddicott-Miller thesis concerning the late-medieval economy and the impact of war taxation; and the critical response of Bridbury.
5. Did the late-medieval European economy(ies) undergo a long-term secular decline (Simiand's 'Phase B') or contraction of 'depression' (or series of depressions). Is such a decline or contraction more than merely a reflection of or response to demographic decline? If so, what role did warfare, and war-related fiscal and monetary (coinage) policies play in that decline, including demographic decline? In particular, discuss the Van der Wee-Peeters thesis in the 1970 *Annales* article, in reading no. B.14. In what ways specifically did warfare and war finance disrupt long-established patterns of the later medieval European economies, particularly trade routes?
6. How was late-medieval warfare conducted: how were wars fought; how destructive of people and property was such warfare?
7. What role did warfare and war-finance play in the emergence of a more centralized, and less feudal form of 'nation-state' in later-medieval or 'Renaissance' Europe?