

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2004

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 of the following four questions. Answer the entire question, as posed.

1. Discuss the relationships or interrelationships between the so-called Demographic and Industrial Revolutions, from about the mid-18th century. Was population growth more a cause or a consequence of economic growth and industrialization? In your answer explain how Great Britain was able to double its population by about 1815, and then triple it in the next century, to World War I, without sustaining, at least from the 1820s, diminishing real incomes.
2. Compare and contrast the supposed 'economic declines' of the Netherlands in the later 18th century and of Great Britain in the later 19th century: were these supposed 'declines' absolute or relative? In your answer discuss both similarities and differences in these two so-called 'declines'.
3. Discuss, compare, and contrast the role of warfare, and government policies related to warfare, in influencing the economic fortunes of Great Britain, the Netherlands, and France, from ca. 1760 to ca. 1815. Discuss (particularly for Great Britain) both positive and negative consequences, direct and indirect, of warfare and related economic activities.
4. In the context of the ongoing 'proto-industrialization' debate, analyse the rural origins of and rural contributions to modern urban industrialization, with a particular emphasis on the role of textile crafts. How do Mendels and other contributors to this debate relate agrarian, demographic, and industrial changes during the 18th and early 19th centuries, particularly in Great Britain? Do you agree with Mendels that 'proto-industrialization [was] the first phase of the modern industrialization process'? Why did European industries become predominantly urban by the mid 19th century?

PART TWO: answer one of the following four questions. Answer the entire question, as posed.

1. Compare and contrast both the economic and the social consequences of the so-called Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions in Great Britain, from ca. 1760 - ca. 1850, particularly in terms of the current 'standard of living' debate, and in terms of the following questions:
 - a) to what extent did changes of the so-called Agricultural Revolution provide a labour force for British industrialization, especially by the early 19th century?
 - b) did that industrial labour force come to enjoy a rising standard of living: and if so, from when?
 - c) were agricultural tenants, small holders, and labourers better off or worse off, because of these socio-economic changes, by the mid 19th century?
 - d) what other factors influenced changing trends in real incomes, or changing levels in the standard of living of the industrial and agricultural proletariat, from the 1760s to the 1850s?

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2. Compare and contrast the role of business organizations and financial institutions – and in more general terms the elusive concept of ‘entrepreneurship’ – in the industrialization of France, Great Britain and/or Germany during the 19th century (1815-1914). In your answer discuss the economic, social, and political factors that helped determine the scale of industrial (and other business) firms in each country, during this period. Did ‘size matter’?
3. Compare and contrast the industrialization and economic growth of Great Britain and France, in the century 1770 to 1870, with particular emphasis on the differences in demographic, agrarian, and industrial changes. To what extent can the impediments to French economic growth be blamed upon historical ‘path dependency’, and to what extent on economic circumstances of the era, in view of comparisons with the British experience? To what extent did differences in natural resource endowments, climate, and more general geographic factors explain differences between the rates and extent of economic growth in each country, during this period?
4. Compare and contrast the role of the state (national government), positive and negative, in influencing the industrialization of Germany and Russia (or: France, Germany, Russia) during the 19th century (or: from 1789 to 1914), particularly in terms of the following:
 - a) ‘peasant emancipation’ and ‘land reforms’
 - b) monetary and financial policies, and the role of public or central banks
 - c) transportation policies

PART THREE: Answer **one** of the following four questions. **Answer the entire question, as posed.**

1. Did Great Britain and/or the European economy experience a ‘Great Depression’ between 1873 and 1896? In your answer discuss and answer the following questions:
 - a) Why did so many contemporaries, especially in Great Britain, believe that they were experiencing a ‘depression’ – in particular, British farmers?
 - b) Why was this period defined by extensive deflation – and does deflation reflect depression? Explain the monetary and real factors that produced this deflation, in responding to this question.
 - c) Why do international trade statistics indicate a stagnation in exports by Britain, France, and (ultimately) also Germany – are those statistics deceptive?
 - d) To what extent did the British experience ‘industrial retardation’ in this period (and after?)
 - e) In what respects did the macro-economic circumstances change, from 1896 to 1914?
2. Why is the term ‘New Imperialism’ or ‘Capitalist Imperialism’ applied to Europe’s role in the international economy from ca. 1870 to 1914? Discuss and evaluate both Marxist and non-Marxist explanations of the role of many European countries (and the U.S.) in exporting goods, services, and especially capital to so many non-European parts of the world in this period?
3. Analyse the role of foreign trade, international finance, and commercial and colonial policies in the British and/or continental economies (you may choose one or more countries), from the ‘Age of Mercantilism’ in the late 17th century to the Age of Free Trade in the mid 19th century and the ensuing Age of New Imperialism, to 1914. In particular answer the following questions:
 - a) Were Free Trade and Imperialism compatible; and why did Britain alone remain true to Free Trade to World War I? Did Great Britain achieve substantial gains from Free Trade?
 - b) What role did colonies play in European economies from the 17th to 20th centuries?
 - c) What role did the International Gold Standard play in international trade, capital exports, and so-called ‘Imperialism’, from the 1860s to 1914?
4. Analyse the role of technological change in European industrialization from ca. 1760 to 1914, with a particular focus on some of the following industries: textile, metallurgical, chemical, electrical. In particular compare British and German achievements in each of these industrial advances.