

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Arts and Science

APRIL/MAY EXAMINATIONS 2005

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. To what extent were Mercantilist philosophies, policies, and practices responses to perceived economic crises and problems during the so-called 'General Crisis of the 17th Century' (c. 1620 - c. 1750), and to what extent were they perceived as solutions to the problem of the Dutch commercial-financial hegemony? In your answer explain why the apogee of the 'Dutch Hegemony' coincided, in time, with the 'Age of Mercantilism' and most of the 'General Crisis era'.
2. Analyse the role of Mercantilist policies and practices in the Anglo-Dutch rivalry for supremacy in the acquisition of overseas colonies and mastery in international commerce during the period 1660-1815, answering the following questions as well:
 - (a) In terms of Hobsbawm's 'General Crisis' thesis, were the English more successful than the Dutch in achieving the transition from Old to New Colonialism?
 - (b) Why were the English more 'Mercantilist' in their economic policies than the Dutch?
 - (c) Why did English overseas colonization prove to be the more conducive to industrialization?
 - (d) Were the English, in pursuing the economic objectives of New Colonialism and Mercantilism, at least partly responsible for the 'economic decline' of the Netherlands in the 18th century? Or were endogenous factors more important in the Dutch economic 'decline' (relative or absolute)?
3. Explain clearly the economic and social interrelationships between demographic and agrarian changes in the English economy – in terms of both changes in agricultural organization (e.g., enclosures, estate management) and technology – from the 1660s to the 1840s. Explain as well how England (with Wales) was able virtually to double her population from 1750 to 1820 and then to triple that population by 1914: i.e., did England-Wales sustain such a dramatic population growth by agrarian changes alone?
4. Compare and contrast the economic and social consequences of the so-called Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions, from the 1760s to the 1850s, especially in terms of the current 'standard of living debate', involving both changes in real incomes and in living conditions. Who gained and who lost from these changes, in the short run, and in the long run? In your answer examine the interrelationships between agrarian and industrial changes.

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

1. Why, after so many centuries, did Great Britain abandon the policies of Mercantilism (which you must explain) to pursue and promote (internationally) a laissez-faire Free Trade policy? In your

continued on page 2/...

answer discuss as well these related questions:

- (a) How and why did Britain, and the British people, gain from Free Trade, to 1914?
 - (a) Why did Britain virtually alone remain devoted to Free Trade policies until World War I?
 - (a) What role did overseas colonies play in early-modern Mercantilism, the Imperialism of Free Trade, and the so-called New Imperialism (Age of Capitalist Imperialism, ca. 1870 - 1914)?
2. What were the chief impediments or barriers to continental industrialization; and to what extent did such barriers prevent continental countries from following the model of the British Industrial Revolution, especially in terms of historic 'path dependency'? In your answer analyse the 19th-century experiences of at least two of the following countries: the Netherlands, France, Germany, and Russia, relating in particular factors involved in industrial and demographic growth.
 3. Compare and contrast the role of the agricultural sector and of agrarian changes in the economic development of at least two of the following countries, from or between the French Revolution and World War I: Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia (with Poland).
 4. Compare and contrast the role of the state in the industrialization and economic development of France, Germany, and Russia, during the 19th century, in terms of both the Gerschenkron thesis, and the following government economic policies (one, some, or all: your choice):
 - (a) peasant emancipation, land reforms, and other agricultural policies.
 - (b) market integration
 - (c) transportation
 - (d) financial policies and financial institutions [do not select, if you also select question III.3]
 - (e) tariffs and foreign trade

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

1. Was it true that 'an industrial map of Europe in the 19th century was essentially a map of her coal fields'? Discuss and compare the role of coal in the industrialization of Great Britain (from the 17th century) and of at least two continental countries, from 1815 to 1914.
2. Compare and contrast the performances of Britain's industrial economy with that of two other countries in the period 1870 to 1914.
 - a) Does such a comparison justify the view that Great Britain was then suffering from 'industrial retardation' (and in comparison with the British industrial growth rates from the 1840s to 1870s)?
 - b) Did size matter? Discuss the relative importance of scale economies (and the factors promoting or hindering increases in industrial scale).
3. Compare and contrast the role of banking and financial institutions – both private and public – in the economic development of Great Britain from the 18th century, and in France, Germany, and Russia during the 19th century (to 1914), while answering the following questions:
 - (a) how did these institutions resemble and how did they differ from the British model?
 - (b) was the establishment of such financial institutions a **prior** condition of economic growth?
 - (c) what were the relative weaknesses as well as strengths of these institutions?
4. Analyse, compare, and contrast the role of both monetary and 'real' factors in explaining the behaviour of long-term price movements – inflations and deflations – from the 1820s to the eve of World War I. To what extent (in Great Britain at least) are changes in living standards either reflected or influenced by these price movements: i.e., did money matter – as much as did technological changes and productivity growth?