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Revised: 7 September 2012

EC0 303Y1: The Economic History of Modern Europe to 1914

**Topic No. 3 [7]: Population Growth and the 'Industrial Revolution' (1750 - 1850):
A Cause or A Consequence of Modern Urban Industrialization?**

Recommended readings: the more important ones are indicated by asterisks *

- * 1. Michael Anderson, Population Change in North-Western Europe, 1750 - 1850 (London, 1988); and Robert Woods, The Population of Britain in the Nineteenth Century (London: MacMillan, 1992). Both republished in Michael Anderson, ed., British Population History from the Black Death to the Present Day, Studies in Social and Economic History (Cambridge and New York, 1996).
- * 2. E. Anthony Wrigley, 'British Population during the "Long" Eighteenth Century, 1680 - 1840', in Roderick Floud and Paul Johnson, eds., Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain, 3 vols. (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), Vol I: Industrialization, 1700 - 1860, pp. 67-95.
- * 3. E. Anthony Wrigley, 'Growth of Population in Eighteenth-Century England: A Conundrum Resolved', Past and Present, no. 98 (1983), 121-50.
- *4. E. Anthony Wrigley, 'Explaining the Rise in Marital Fertility in England in the 'Long' Eighteenth Century', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 51:3 (August 1998), 435-64.
- * 5. E. Anthony Wrigley, 'English County Populations in the Later Eighteenth Century', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 60:1 (February 2007), 35-69.
- * 6. Emma Griffin, 'A Conundrum Resolved? Rethinking Courtship, Marriage and Population Growth in Eighteenth-Century England', Past & Present, no. 215 (May 2012), pp. 125-64.
- * 7. Roger Schofield, 'British Population Change, 1700-1871', in Roderick Floud and Donald McCloskey, eds., The Economic History of Britain Since 1700, 2nd edition, vol. 1: 1700 - 1860 (Cambridge, 1994), pp. 60-95. In the first edition, see also R. D. Lee and R.S. Schofield, 'British Population in the Eighteenth Century', in R. Floud and D. McCloskey, eds., The Economic History of Britain Since 1700, vol. 1 (1981), pp. 17-35.
- * 8. E.A. Wrigley and R.S. Schofield, The Population History of England, 1541-1871: A Reconstruction, 2nd edn., 1989), chapter 10, pp. 402-53.
- * 9. R.I. Rotberg and T. K. Rabb, eds., Population and Economy: Population and History from the Traditional to the Modern World (1986): The Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 15 (Apr. 1985):
a) Peter Lindert, 'English Population, Wages, and Prices, 1541 - 1913', pp. 571-94.
b) Brinley Thomas, 'Escaping from Malthusian Constraints: The Industrial Revolution in a Malthusian Context', pp. 729-54.

- * 10. Peter Lindert, 'English Living Standards, Population Growth, & Wrigley-Schofield', Explorations in Economic History, 20 (1983), 131-55.
- * 11. Peter Razzell, 'The Growth of Population in Eighteenth-Century England: A Critical Reappraisal', The Journal of Economic History, 53 (December 1993), 743-72.
- * 12. John Komlos, 'The Industrial Revolution as the Escape from the Malthusian Trap', The Journal of European Economic History, 29:2-3 (Fall - Winter 2000), 307-31; and John Komlos, 'On the Nature of the Malthusian Threat in the Eighteenth Century', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 52:4 (November 1999), 730-48.
- * 13. George Alter and Gregory Clark, 'The Demographic Transition and Human Capital', in Stephen Broadberry and Kevin O'Rourke, eds., The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe, Vol. I: 1700 - 1870 (Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 43-69. For all of Europe, and not just Great Britain.
- * 14. Jona Schellkens, 'Nuptiality during the First Industrial Revolution in England: Explanations', Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 27:4 (Spring 1997), 637-54. Concerning the Wrigley-Schofield thesis. See also: Jona Schellkens, 'Economic Change and Infant Mortality in England, 1580 - 1837', Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 32:1 (Summer 2001), 1-13.
- * 15. David R. Weir, 'Rather Never than Late: Celibacy and Age at Marriage in English Cohort Fertility, 1541-1971', Journal of Family History, 9 (1984), 340-54; and the reply in: Roger S. Schofield, 'English Marriage Patterns Revisited', Journal of Family History, 10 (1985), 2-20.
- * 16. J.P.D. Dunbabin, 'The Demographic Causes of the Industrial Revolution: Some Qualifications', The Journal of European Economic History, 24:2 (Fall 1995), 405-10.
- * 17. Maw Lin Lee and David Loschky, 'Interdependency between Fertility and Real Wages in England, 1541 - 1871', The Journal of European Economic History, 27:1 (Spring 1998), 107-31.
- 18. Martha Olney, 'Fertility and the Standard of Living in Early-Modern England: In Consideration of Wrigley and Schofield,' Journal of Economic History, 43:1 (March 1983), 71-88.
- * 19. Gregory Clark and Gillian Hamilton, 'Survival of the Richest: The Malthusian Mechanism in Pre-Industrial England', Journal of Economic History, 66:3 (September 2006), 707 - 736.
- * 20. Nina Boberg-Fazlic, Paul Sharp, and Jacob Weisdorf, 'Survival of the Richest? Social Status, Fertility, and Social Mobility in England, 1541-1824', European Review of Economic History, 15:3 (December 2011), 365-92.
- * 21. Gregory Clark, Joseph Cummins, and Brock Smith, 'Malthus, Wages, and Preindustrial Growth', Journal of Economic History, 72:2 (June 2012), 364-92.
- * 22. Esterban A. Nicolini, 'Was Malthus Right? A VAR Analysis of Economic and Demographic Interactions in Pre-Industrial England', European Review of Economic History, 11:1 (April 2007), 99-121.

- * 23. Nicholas F. R. Crafts, 'Exogenous or Endogenous Growth? The Industrial Revolution Reconsidered', Journal of Economic History, 55:4 (December 1995), 745-72.
- 24. Deborah Oxley, ' "The Seat of Death and Terror:" Urbanization, Stunting, and Smallpox', The Economic History Review, 2nd ser., 56:4 (November 2003), 623-56.
- * 25. Jan de Vries, 'Population', in Thomas A. Brady, jr., Heiko O. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, eds., Handbook of European History, 1400-1600: Late Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation, Vol. I: Structures and Assertions (Leiden/New York/Cologne: E.J. Brill, 1994), pp. 1 - 50. Provides a very good historical background to demographic change in the Industrial Revolution era..
- * 26. John Hatcher, 'Understanding the Population History of England, 1450 - 1750', Past & Present, no. 180 (August 2003), 83-130. While also obviously for the previous period (and indeed, for my other course, ECO 301Y), this will still provide very useful background and analytical insights).

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did British and European population begin to grow again, from about the middle of the 18th century, after having experienced stagnation or decline in the previous century? Why did it grow at a much faster rate than ever before, especially in Great Britain? What was the more powerful force in that 'demographic revolution': rising birth rates or falling death rates? When, why, where? In rural or in urban areas?
2. If 'Malthusian' checks had halted population growth in the past, why did population now continue to grow unchecked until the 20th century?
3. Discuss the changing relationships between population levels and living standards in Britain from the 17th to 19th centuries:
 - (a) what effect did changes in employment and real wages have upon population growth, in terms of birth and death rates? Conversely,
 - (b) what effect did population decline and then growth have upon the level of real wages and living standards? Explain the evident paradox.
4. Did population growth foster industrial growth in Great Britain -- was it one of the 'causes' of the Industrial Revolution? Or conversely, did prior economic growth and then industrialization itself cause or promote the population growth? How did British population growth differ from that in continental Europe during this period: the Industrial Revolution era and the 19th century?
5. What effects did population growth and population distributions (including internal migrations) within Great Britain have upon markets and market structures during the Industrial Revolution era?