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**Economics 303Y1**

**The Economic History of Modern Europe to 1914**

**(The Industrialization of Modern Europe, 1750 - 1914)**

**ESSAYS TOPICS FOR THE FIRST TERM: SEPT - DEC. 2001**

First-term essays are due on Friday, 30 November 2001, except for part-time students and those who have obtained legitimate extensions.

Please refer to the **Course Outline**, for further information on submitting the term essays and the deadlines. It is available on-line on my Home Page:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/201out.pdf>

**Be sure also to consult the handout entitled *Instructions on Writing Term Essays***, for instructions on and other information about preparing term essays. It is also available on-line, on my Home Page:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/ESSINSTR.pdf>

See also Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Waveland Press, Illinois, 2000).

**Special Instructions: Your essay must meet the following requirements, or else it will be rejected, unread and ungraded.**

1. **Your essay must be based upon one of the following topics, chosen from the three following lists:**
  - A. **The Five Most Recommended Essay Topics:** with prepared bibliographies (long and short versions), which topics will appear, in some form, on the final examination.
  - B. **Other Topics from the Master List of Discussion Topics:** also with prepared bibliographies (long and short versions)
  - C. **Alternative Topics:** If you select a topic from this C list, you should seek my advice and approval for the bibliography; but you must find your own bibliography first.
2. **Your essay must contain footnotes *with pagination* (or endnotes, or citations within the text, similarly with page numbers); and an annotated bibliography, prepared according to the instructions in *Instructions on Writing Term Essays*.** If you submit a second term essay that is lacking in either proper footnotes, etc. and/or an annotated bibliography, you will receive a failing grade for the essay, unless you submit the essay to me personally first, for approval; and if you do

so, submitting an improper or incomplete essay, I will give the opportunity to revise it accordingly. Footnotes are preferable to endnotes, which in turn are preferable to in-text citations; but your grade will not be affected by the choice.

3. **Your essay must not be under the minimum or over the maximum word limits**, i.e. between about 2100 and 4500 words, without my written and signed permission; but I will almost certainly accept legitimate essays of 15 pages or more (i.e. within reason), if its extra length is the result of considerable research. If you use a word processor, use the word-count function and put the number of words on the title page of your essay.
4. **Your essay must be based upon a *minimum* of five published academic sources**, i.e. journal articles, monographs, book-collection of essays, etc. You may also use and cite sources from general textbooks, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, CD-Rom collections, and internet/web sites; but these must be *in addition to the five published academic sources*.
5. **You may not and must not use in your essay any table, graph, map or illustration that I have given you as a hand-out (including those contained within the published lectures)**; nor may you include photo-copies of tables or graphs from secondary sources, not without my express permission. You may, however, include photocopies of maps and illustrations, etc. without such permission.
6. **If you do not submit your essay prepared on a word processor or typewriter**, you must write or hand-print the essay neatly, with double-spacing, writing on one side of the page only.
7. Otherwise your essay must conform with the other regulations set out in the *Instructions on Writing Term Essays*.

**A. MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS: FIRST TERM (September - December 2001)**

**Topics drawn from the Master List of Topics:** See this list on my Home Page, as follows:

<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/303TUTOP.pdf>

1. The Economic Decline of the Netherlands in the Eighteenth Century: Cause or Consequence of the British Industrial Revolution? [Topic 3]
2. Warfare and the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe, 1760 - 1815 [6]
3. Population Growth and the Industrial Revolution, 1750 - 1830: A Cause or Consequence of Modern Urban Industrialization? [Topic 7]
4. Labour and The Enclosures of the Industrial Revolution Era in England: The Social Costs of Agricultural Modernization , ca. 1760 - 1830 [Topic 8]
5. The 'Proto-Industrialization' Debate: Agriculture, Rural Handicraft Industries in Early Modern Europe, and the Transition to Modern Urban Industrialization [Topic 4]

### Notes and Explanations:

- (a) The numbers in square brackets refer to those on the Master List of topics. **Please refer to them for fuller information on the nature and scope of these debate topics, and why they should be interesting to both economists and historians (and indeed political scientists as well).**
- (b) For each of these topics there is a one-page handout with listings of the more important readings, chiefly recent periodical articles, and major questions. The more important readings are marked by asterisks: \* or \*\*. These short-form bibliographies are posted on my Home Page (web site): **<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/munro5/>**
- (c) For each of these topics, and indeed for any of the topics in the Master List of 20 topics, I have supplied a complete and usually very lengthy bibliography, organized by sub-topics within this debate; and these bibliography sets also contain statistical tables, graphs, maps, etc. They are also available on my Home Page, both in html (without graphs, etc.) and pdf formats. For those without internet access available, I can supply a print-out of the bibliography (without graphs or maps), on order, for the cost price of \$3.00 per set (including PST and GST). I can also send you, as an internet attachment (i.e. with e-mail), the WordPerfect computer file for any of these bibliographies; and such files should be readily convertible into MS Word.
- (d) A set of readings, consisting of two articles for each of these five topics, is available for sale, from Scholar House Productions, which will deliver them to the University.
- (e) These five lists contain the primary recommended readings for the course this term; and thus you are advised to read one or two of the readings from each of these lists, in addition to or in place of the textbooks.
- (f) **In some form or other, virtually all of these topics will appear on the final examination.** Hence the strong emphasis on doing at least some readings for each topic.
- (g) **In writing your essay, please do not try to cover the entire topic, since these are all ‘debate’ topics that cover wide-ranging issues, usually involving lengthy time-periods for a wide geographic range.** You should base your essay on one specific sub-topic, or narrow aspect, of the general topic that you have chosen; and you should normally try to confine yourself to one or two regions or countries; and, if possible, in a more restricted time-framework than that covered by the debate topic. But at least be sure that the essay is restricted to one specific and relatively narrow sub-topic, which may be more easily found in the following.

### **B. OTHER RECOMMENDED TOPICS FROM THE MASTER LIST:**

#### Notes:

- a) If you finally decide that you do not want to do any of the above topics in section A -- i.e. topics nos. 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 drawn from the Master List, you may indeed choose instead to select another other

First-Term topic provided in the Master List, i.e. to choose from the other seven topics not selected as the primary topics for the course this year, which are thus nos. 1, 2, 5, and 9.

- b) Please note carefully that all of the remaining topics, i.e. nos. 10 - 20, are strictly reserved for the second term. Similarly, in the second term you will not be allowed to select any topic from nos. 1-9 for a second term topic.
- c) For each of these topics, I can similarly provide you with a one-page free handout, listing the major readings and question; and/or I can also supply a complete and often very lengthy bibliography, with additional questions, statistical tables, graphs, maps, etc. They will be available, by early January 2002, in the same formats discussed above.
- d) Again, you should base your essay on some sub-topic, or narrow aspect, of the general topic that you have chosen; do not attempt to cover the entire debate topic. For sub-topics, refer to the full bibliography for the topic.
- e) There is no guarantee that the subject matter of these secondary (B category) topics will appear on the final examination.

**Other Acceptable Essay Topics from the Master List:**

- 1. The 'General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century,' 1620-1740: the Hobsbawm Thesis on the Origins of the 'Industrial Revolution'
- 2. Mercantilism: Money, Economic Nationalism, and the State in Early-Modern Europe
- 5. The Causes of the British Industrial Revolution, 1750-1830: Exogenous or Endogenous?
- 9. Banking and the 'Industrial Revolution': A Comparison of the Role of Dutch and British Financial Institutions in Promoting Economic Growth, 1660 - 1850

**C. ALTERNATIVE ESSAY TOPICS:**

You may instead choose or adapt any of the following essay topics; but please note that prepared bibliographies are *not* available for any of these topics, though some related bibliographies may be available. Thus check the Master List for possibly related bibliographies. I should note that very rarely indeed do students choose any of these topics (for obvious reasons); and I see no need to provide a new alternative set, since this one is very inclusive of the topics considered in this course. You must construct your own bibliography, and then obtain my approval, for any of the following topics:

- 1. The 1660s as an era of revolutionary transition in the English economy.
- 2. The 'Agricultural Depression of 1660 - 1740': benefits and costs for the British economy

3. Religion and Education in 18th Century England: the Role of the Protestant 'Dissenter' Academies in the Industrial Revolution Era.
4. The Foundations of the Dutch Commercial Empire in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries.
5. The English Navigation Laws: Success or Failure?
6. The English and Dutch Shipbuilding Industries in the 18th Century: an Economic Comparison.
7. England and the Americas in the 18th Century: the Economic Connections.
8. English Commerce and Shipping in the Caribbean in the later 17th and 18th Centuries.
9. English Commerce and Shipping in the Mediterranean in the later 17th and 18th Centuries.
10. 'New Colonialism' in English and Dutch overseas commerce, 1670 - 1750: a comparison.
11. The 'Scientific Revolution' of the 17th Century and the Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century: Was there any Connection?
12. The Role of the Bank of England in the English Economy, 1694 - 1844
13. Public Debt and Taxation: the role of state finances in the British economy during the Industrial Revolution era. ca. 1760 - ca. 1830.
14. The Business Cycle, Inflation, and Deflation, 1790 - 1842: the nature of international economic fluctuations in the evolving British industrial economy.
15. Scottish Banking in the 18th and 19th Centuries: A Superior Model?
16. The 'South Sea Bubble' and the 'Bubble Act' of 1720: Their impact upon business financing and capital formation in the English Economy, 1720 - 1826.
17. Water Power and Steam Power in the British Economy, 1710 - 1860
18. On Curing the Social Ills of the 'Industrial Revolution': British government legislation to protect the working classes in the 19th century.
19. The First Transportation Revolution: Canals and Turnpikes in 18th Century England.
20. The 19th Century Revolution in Transportation: Railroads
21. An economic comparison of the British cotton and woollen industries, 1815 - 1860: technology, industrial scale, location, and the export trades.
22. The Role of the Corn Laws in British Agriculture, 1660 - 1846.

23. Technological innovations and Mechanization in British Agriculture, 1770 - 1860.
24. The role of discount houses in British banking and finance during the 19th century.
25. The British Iron Industry, from Darby to Neilsen (1710 - 1830): How did Britain Overcome the 'Tyranny of Wood and Water'?
26. The role of the entrepreneur during the Industrial Revolution era: a comparison of the careers of Darby, Arkwright, Wilkinson, and Wedgwood. [Or you may do a 'biography' of just one of these entrepreneurs]
27. The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Transportation Revolution: Steam Shipping.
28. British, German, and American Competition in Oceanic Shipping in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
29. Labour strife and the origins of trade unions in England during the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
30. The Luddites: who were they and what did they accomplish?

**D. SECOND TERM: MOST RECOMMENDED TOPICS: January to April 2002**

These are also drawn from the Master List of Essay and General Reading Topics (20 Topics). For the second term, you may also choose any other topic from the Master List of Essay and Reading Topics, from nos. 10 - 20 inclusive.]

**Topic Numbers:** those in square brackets refer to the topic numbers of the Master List

6. The Social Consequences of Urban Industrialization in Great Britain: The Standard of Living Debate, 1770-1850 [no. 10]
7. Entrepreneurship and Business Organization in European Industrialization During the 19th Century: The Case of France, 1800 - 1914 [Topic no. 16]
8. The Role of the National State in 19th-Century European Economic Development: A Comparison of Germany and Russia, 1815-1914 [Topic no. 15]
9. Problems of the British Economy, 1870-1914: The 'Industrial Retardation' Debate [Topic no. 18]
10. The 'New Imperialism' of 1870-1914 (the Era of 'Capitalist Imperialism'): Foreign Trade, Capital Exports, and the Overseas Colonial Empires of Britain, France, and Germany up to World War I [Topic no. 20]