

EC224 War and Economy in the Twentieth Century: 2012/13

Aims

To familiarize students that have already acquired Honours-level competence in economic analysis with the economic background and experience of two World Wars and the Cold War, particularly in Europe and North America, and with some applications of economics that have been specific to defence and warfare in the twentieth century.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate general knowledge and understanding of the economic background and experience of two World Wars and the Cold War, particularly in Europe, North America, and the Near East.
- Demonstrate familiarity with some applications of economics that have been specific to defence and warfare in the twentieth century.
- Communicate their knowledge and understanding to others using seminar presentations and an essay.
- Apply critical analysis to the topics of the module, formulate concepts and hypotheses, and show how they are tested in relevant literature.
- Review the relevant literature and evidence and write a report based on this review.
- Lectures, seminars, and independent study will enable you to achieve these learning outcomes. A 2,000-word term paper and a 1½ hour unseen examination will measure your achievement of these outcomes.

Teaching Arrangements

Lecture Programme

The module is taught in term 2. Lectures are normally Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 12 noon in MS.B3.03, and 2 to 3 p.m. in MS0.5.

- **Introduction** (2 lectures): Some historical trends and the applications of economics to military organization and conflict.
- **World War I** (5 lectures): Economic background and origins of the conflict; economic policies used to wage the war; costs and results of the war.
- **World War II** (6 lectures): Economic background and origins of the conflict; economic policies used to wage war; costs and results of the war. The political economy of food security and military occupation. Alliances and burden sharing.

Note: Normal lectures on Thursday 7 February (week 5) will be replaced by **one on Monday 4 February at 3pm in B2.01, and a second on Wednesday 6 February at 9am in MS.B3.03.** A video capture will be made for the use of any that cannot attend.

- **The Cold War** (4 lectures): Economic background and origins of the conflict (included those inherited from the era of the World Wars); economic policies used to support the Cold War; costs and results of the Cold War. More on alliances and burden sharing. The economics of defence procurement and military industrial lobbies. Military Keynesianism.

Seminars

The Modern Records Centre has scanned some documents from twentieth century British history that are relevant to the module. These are available at <http://warwick.ac.uk/ec224/details/mrc>. The MRC documentation will provide the basis of seminars in weeks 4, 6, and 8 of the term, held in the centrally timetabled slot on Thursdays at 2 pm in MS.05. The sequence of topics will be:

- **Food rationing and price control**, week 4 (31 January).
- **War savings: compulsion or voluntarism**, week 6 (14 February).
- **The arms trade**, week 8 (28 February).

Each seminar will take the form of a student-led presentation, based on one of the case studies. As explained below, each seminar will be preceded by online discussion, and all students will take part.

Questions

In the seminars, we will try to find answers to the following questions:

- Who wrote these documents and why did they write them?
- What beliefs did they hold about economic and political causation?
- What evidence did they use to support their causal beliefs?
- How do these beliefs differ from yours?

Presenters

In a large class only a few will have the chance to present. At the first lecture, I will invite bids from teams. One team member should bid for the team's preferred slot by email to me. I will allocate slots on the basis of first come, first served. Those that are not selected will also have important roles to play in preparation and discussion.

The minimum size of team is two. There is no upper limit, but the team should not be so large that any member may free-ride. My intuition is that the optimal team size is three.

Joining a team and submitting a bid that I accept is a binding commitment to fill the slot. Once your bid is accepted, you may drop out only on medical or equivalent grounds.

Preparation and on-line discussion: All students

We will prepare for each seminar in stages.

- **Week X minus 3: Reading.** Go to the web page devoted to the seminar topic, including one or two items of supplementary reading for additional context. Everyone should read the case-study documents and consult the background reading. Note, however, that the purpose of the seminar is to discuss the documents, not the background!

- **Week X minus 2: Online discussion.** During the week, all students not on the presentation team should post at least one original comment of at least 100 words (a summary, review, or a criticism of some issue or evidence provided in the documentation), or a considered response to another student's comment. You can post a question, but it should be a reasoned question, not just an invitation for others to do the work for you. Individual and group submissions are equally acceptable. If you upload a comment on behalf of a group, make clear who is included. I will monitor participation.
- **Week X minus 1: Presentation teamwork.** The team will create a presentation based on their own reading and the online discussion. Ideally, produce a 20-25 minute presentation, leaving 20-25 minutes for discussion. Remember the focus should be on the documents, not the background reading (which is for background only). Don't overestimate how much you can cover in that time. Divide the labour among you as you please. A successful presentation will generate arguments among the listeners. Big ideas and relevant evidence are both important, but remember that your purpose should be to promote discussion, not to be comprehensive (or to crush alternative views). Keep some of what you know in reserve, to be brought out if needed.
- **Week X: The seminar.**
- **Week X plus 1: Post mortem.** I will upload the presentation with my own comments. Online discussion may continue indefinitely, of course.

Assessment

The summer exam

The module is assessed by a 2,000-word essay and a 90-minute summer exam. The exam carries 80% weight and the essay carries 20%. Choose your essay from the topics below; note that your choice of topic will **not** restrict your choice of questions on the exam paper.

Assessed essays

Here are three topics. Choose one.

1. What strategic considerations motivated economic warfare in **either** the First **or** the Second World War? Why did the results often appear to disappoint? What was the contribution of economic warfare to the outcome of the war?
2. Discuss the view that war can promote full employment and thereby economic growth. Did World War II get the West out of the Great Depression?
3. Explain the problem of free riding in alliances. Does this analysis sufficiently explain the empirical behaviour of economically smaller countries in NATO in the Cold War? What limitations or extensions of the theory does the longer-term record of the twentieth century suggest?

You will find detailed essay guidance, including my “Top Ten Do’s and Don’ts,” at <http://warwick.ac.uk/ec224/details/essays/>. You should also consult the full guidance in the Department of Economics assessment handbook, available at <http://warwick.ac.uk/economics/ug/current/>, especially with regard to length, quoting and citing, and style of referencing.

Submit your essay to <http://warwick.ac.uk/economics/ug/esubmission/> where you will find full instructions. The deadline is:

Tuesday, 23 April, 2013

Resources

On-line resources

You will find many resources at <http://warwick.ac.uk/ec224/> including FAQs, notes, maps, timelines, the MRC case studies, and links to a number of references from the reading list.

If you are looking for stuff that I have written, almost everything is available at <http://warwick.ac.uk/markharrison/>. Click on “Publications” if the item you want is published or “Current Research” if it is still a working paper.

Module forum

We will use the EC224 forum at <http://warwick.ac.uk/ec224/details/forum/> to talk to each other outside the timetabled meetings. I advise you to join the forum and set your preferences to allow email notification of all new messages. That way, you will not need to check the forum to see whether new messages have been posted, and you will not miss them if you fail to check.

Reading

Core Reading

- Broadberry, Stephen, and Mark Harrison. 2008. “Economics of the Two World Wars.” In *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics* (second edition). Edited by Stephen Durlauf and Lawrence Blume. Palgrave Macmillan
- Broadberry, Stephen, and Mark Harrison, eds. 2005. *The Economics of World War I*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Harrison, Mark, ed. 1998. *The Economics of World War II: Six Great Powers in International Comparison*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sandler, Todd, and Keith Hartley. 1999. *The Political Economy of NATO: Past, Present and into the 21st Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Ron P. 2009. *Military Economics: the Interaction of Power and Money*, especially chapters 1 to 3. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Background

The twentieth century in context

- Dincecco, Mark, and Mauricio Prado. 2012. “Warfare, Fiscal Capacity, and Performance.” *Journal of Economic Growth* 17:3, pp. 171-203.

- Hoffman, Philip T. 2011. "Prices, the Military Revolution, and Western Europe's Comparative Advantage in Violence." *Economic History Review* 64:S1, pp. 39-59.
- Ferguson, Niall. 2001. *The Cash Nexus: Money and Power in the Modern World, 1700-2000*. London: Allen Lane.
- Findlay, Ronald, and Kevin O'Rourke. 2007. *Power and Plenty: Trade, War, and the World Economy in the Second Millennium*, chapter 7 ("World trade, 1780-1914: the great specialization"). Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.
- Münkler, Herfried. 2005. *The New Wars*, chapter 2 ("Warfare, State Building and the Thirty Years' War"). Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Pinker, Steven. 2011. *The Better Angels of our Nature: The Decline of Violence in History and its Causes*. London: Allen Lane.
- Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*, especially chapter 3 ("How war made states, and vice versa"). Oxford: Blackwell.

How armies fight

- Brennan, Geoffrey, and Gordon Tullock. 1982. "An Economic Theory of Military Tactics: Methodological Individualism at War." *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 3:2-3, 225-42.
- Keegan, John. 1976. *The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme*. London: Jonathan Cape.

Why nations fight

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2006. "Game Theory, Political Economy, and the Evolving Study of War and Peace." *American Political Science Review* 100:4, pp. 637-642.
- Eloranta, Jari, and Mark Harrison. 2010. "War and Disintegration, 1914-1945." In *The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe, Volume 2: 1870-2000*, pp. 133-155. Edited by Stephen Broadberry and Kevin O'Rourke. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gartzke, Erik, and Yonatan Lupu. 2012. "Trading on Preconceptions: Why World War I Was Not a Failure of Economic Interdependence." *International Security* 36/4, pp. 115-150.
- Harrison, Mark. 2011. "Capitalism at War." CAGE Working Paper no. 60/2011, University of Warwick, Department of Economics.
- Harrison, Mark, and Nikolaus Wolf. 2012. "The Frequency of Wars." *Economic History Review* 65:3, pp. 1055-1076.
- Levy, Jack S. 1988. "Domestic Politics and War." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18:4, pp. 653-673.

The uses of economics

- Brauer, Jurgen, and Hubert van Tuyl. 2008. *Castles, Battles, and Bombs: How Economics Explains Military History*, chapter 1 ("Economics"). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2006. "Game Theory, Political Economy, and the Evolving Study of War and Peace." *American Political Science Review* 100:4, pp. 637-642.
- Rockoff, Hugh. 2012. *America's Economic Way of War: War and the US Economy from the Spanish-American war to the Persian Gulf War*, chapter 2 ("The economics of war"). Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Ron P. 2009. *Military Economics: the Interaction of Power and Money*, chapter 2 ("Power and money"). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Germany

- Armstrong, Robert B. 1964. *Total Warfare and Compulsory Labor: A Study of the Military-Industrial Complex in Germany During World War I*. The Hague: Mouton.
- Berghahn, Volker R. 1973. *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914*. London: Macmillan.
- Feldman, Gerald D. 1966. *Army, Industry and Labor in Germany, 1914-1918*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Hantke, Max, and Mark Spoerer. 2010. "The Imposed Gift of Versailles: The Fiscal Effects of Restricting the Size of Germany's Armed Forces, 1924-9." *Economic History Review* 63:4, pp. 849-864.
- Marks, Sally. 1978. "The Myths of Reparations." *Central European History* 11:3, pp. 231-255.
- Mason, Timothy. 1968. "The Primacy of Politics: Politics and Economics in National Socialist Germany." In *The Nature of Fascism*, pp. 165-195. Edited by Stuart J. Woolf. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
- Overy, Richard J. 1994. *War and Economy in the Third Reich*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Tooze, Adam. 2006. *The Wages of Destruction: The Making and the Breaking of the Nazi Economy*. London: Allen Lane.
- Van Riel, Arthur, and Arthur Schram. 1993. "Weimar Economic Decline, Nazi Economic Recovery, and the Stabilization of Political Dictatorship." *Journal of Economic History* 53:1, pp. 71-105.

Aggression and Conquest

- Collingham, Lizzie. 2010. *The Taste of War: World War Two and the Battle for Food*, especially chapters 2 (Germany's Quest for Empire) and 3 (Japan's Quest for Empire). London: Allen Lane.
- Dallin, Alexander. 1957. *German Rule in Russia, 1941-1945: A Study of Occupation Policies*. London: Macmillan.
- Kay, Alex J. 2006. *Exploitation, Resettlement, Mass Murder: Political and Economic Planning for German Occupation Policy in the Soviet Union, 1940-1941*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Klemann, Hein, and Sergei Kudriashov. 2012. *Occupied Economies: An Economic History of Nazi-Occupied Europe, 1939-1945*. London and New York: Berg.
- Lieberman, Peter. 1996. *Does Conquest Pay? The Exploitation of Occupied Industrial Societies*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Tooze, Adam. 2006. *The Wages of Destruction: The Making and the Breaking of the Nazi Economy*. London: Allen Lane.

War Mobilization

Broadberry, Stephen, and Mark Harrison. 2005. "The Economics of World War I: an Overview." In *The Economics of World War I*, pp. 3-40. Edited by Stephen Broadberry and Mark Harrison. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. See also country chapters by individual authors.

Broadberry, Stephen, and Mark Harrison. 2008. "Economics of the Two World Wars." In *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics* (second edition). Edited by Stephen Durlauf and Lawrence Blume. Palgrave Macmillan.

Harrison, Mark. 1998. "The Economics of World War II: An Overview." In *The Economics of World War II: Six Great Powers in International Comparison*, pp. 1-42. Edited by Mark Harrison. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. See also country chapters by individual authors.

Harrison, Mark. 2005. "Why Didn't the Soviet Economy Collapse in 1942?" In *A World at Total War: Global Conflict and the Politics of Destruction, 1939-1945*, pp. 137-156. Edited by Roger Chickering, Stig Förster, and Bernd Greiner. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Strachan, Hew. 2004. *Financing the First World War*, chapter 4 ("The loss of budgetary control"). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Economic Warfare and Food

Barber, John, and Harrison, Mark. 1991. *The Soviet Home Front: A Social and Economic History of the USSR in World War II*, chapter 5 ("Subsistence and survival"). London: Longman.

Baten, Jörg, and Andrea Wagner. 2002. "Autarchy, Market Disintegration, and Health: the Mortality and Nutritional Crisis in Nazi Germany, 1933-1937." *Economics and Human Biology* 1:1, pp. 1-28.

Collingham, Lizzie. 2010. *The Taste of War: World War Two and the Battle for Food*. London: Allen Lane.

Davis, Lance E., and Stanley L. Engerman. 2006. *Naval Blockades in Peace and War: An Economic History Since 1750*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hardach, Gerd. 1981. *The First World War, 1914-1918*, chapters 2 ("The Allied Blockade of the Central Powers") and 3 ("Commercial warfare and the U-boat"). Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Offer, Avner. 1989. *The First World War: an Agrarian Interpretation*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Olson, Mancur. 1963. *The Economics of the Wartime Shortage: A History of British Food Supplies in the Napoleonic War and in World Wars I and II*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Alliances and Burden Sharing

Burk, Kathleen. 1995. "American Foreign Economic Policy and Lend-Lease." In *The Rise and Fall of the Grand Alliance, 1941-1945*, pp. 43-68. Edited by Ann Lane and Howard Temperley. Basingstoke: Macmillan.

- Conybeare, John A. C., and Todd Sandler. 1990. "The Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance, 1880-1914: a Collective Goods Approach." *American Political Science Review* 84:4, pp. 1197-1206.
- Goldstein, Avery. 1995. "Discounting the Free Ride: Alliances and Security in the Postwar World." *International Organization* 49:1, pp 39-71.
- Harrison, Mark, 1995. "The Soviet Economy and Relations with the United States and Britain, 1941-1945." In *The Rise and Fall of the Grand Alliance, 1941-1945*, pp. 69-89. Ann Lane and Howard Temperley, eds. Basingstoke: Macmillan.
- Olson, Mancur, and Richard Zeckhauser. 1966. "An Economic Theory of Alliances." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 48:3, pp. 266-279.
- Sandler, Todd, and Keith Hartley. 1999. *The Political Economy of NATO: Past, Present and into the 21st Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sandler, Todd, and Keith Hartley. 2001. "Economics of Alliances: The Lessons for Collective Action." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 39:4, pp. 869-896.
- Thies, Wallace J. 1987. "Alliances and Collective Goods: A Reappraisal." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 31:2, pp. 298-332.

Costs of War

- Broadberry, Stephen, and Mark Harrison. 2005. "The Economics of World War I: an Overview." In *The Economics of World War I*, pp. 3-40. Edited by Stephen Broadberry and Mark Harrison. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. See also country chapter on the United Kingdom by Broadberry and Howlett.
- Edelstein, Michael. 2000. "War and the American Economy in the Twentieth Century." In *The Cambridge Economic History of the United States*. Vol. 3, The Twentieth Century, pp. 329-405. Edited by Stanley L. Engerman and Robert E. Gallman. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Field, Alexander J. 2008. "The Impact of the Second World War on US Productivity Growth." *Economic History Review* 61:3, pp. 672-694.
- Harrison, Mark. 1998. "The Economics of World War II: An Overview." In *The Economics of World War II: Six Great Powers in International Comparison*, 1-42. Edited by Mark Harrison. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. See also country chapter on the United Kingdom by Broadberry and Howlett.
- Rockoff, Hugh. 2012. *America's Economic Way of War: War and the US Economy from the Spanish-American War to the Persian Gulf War*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Defence Procurement, or Costs of Peace

- Eloranta, Jari. 2008. "Rent Seeking and Collusion in the Military Allocation Decisions of Finland, Sweden, and the UK, 1920-1938." *Economic History Review* 62:1, pp. 23-44.
- Harrison, Mark. 2003. "Soviet Industry and the Red Army Under Stalin: A Military-Industrial Complex?" *Les Cahiers du Monde russe* 44:2-3, pp. 323-42.
- Harrison, Mark. 2011. "Capitalism at War." CAGE Working Paper no. 60, University of Warwick, Department of Economics.
- Higgs, Robert V. 1993. "Private Profit, Public Risk: Institutional Antecedents of the Modern Military Procurement System in the Rearmament Program of

- 1940-41." In *The Sinews of War: Essays on the Economic History of World War II*. Edited by Geoffrey T. Mills and Hugh Rockoff. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press. Reprinted in Robert V. Higgs. 2006. *Depression, War, and Cold War: Studies in Political Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Higgs, Robert V. 1994. "The Cold War Economy: Opportunity Costs, Ideology, and the Politics of Crisis." *Explorations in Economic History* 31:3, 283-312. Reprinted in Robert V. Higgs. 2006. *Depression, War, and Cold War: Studies in Political Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Poast, Paul. 2006. *The Economics of War*, Chapter 5 (Weapons Procurement). New York: McGraw Hill/Irwin.
- Rogerson, William P. 1994. "Economic Incentives and the Defense Procurement Process." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 8:4: 65-90.
- Smith, Ron P. 2009. *Military Economics: the Interaction of Power and Money*, chapters 5 ("Force acquisition I, demand: The biggest bang for a buck?") and 6 ("Force acquisition II, supply: merchants of death?"). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Wilson, Mark, and Jari Eloranta. 2010. "Thwarting the 'Merchants of Death' Accusation: The Political Economy of Military Procurement in Industrial Democracies before the Second World War." *Essays in Economic and Business History* 28, pp. 91-106.

Military Keynesianism

- Field, Alexander J. 2008. "The Impact of the Second World War on US Productivity Growth." *Economic History Review* 61:3, pp. 672-694.
- Higgs, Robert V. 1992. "Wartime Prosperity? A Reassessment of the U.S. Economy in the 1940s." *Journal of Economic History* 52:1, pp 41-60.
- Overy, Richard J. 1994. *War and Economy in the Third Reich*, chapter 4 ("Cars, Roads, and Economic Recovery"). Oxford: Clarendon.
- Ritschl, Albrecht. 2002. "Deficit Spending in the Nazi Recovery, 1933-1938: A Critical Reassessment." *Journal of the Japanese and International Economies* 16:4, 559-582.
- Smith, Ron P. 1977. "Military Expenditure and Capitalism." *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 1:1, pp. 61-76.
- Smith, Ron P. 2009. *Military Economics: the Interaction of Power and Money*, chapter 4 ("Military spending: How much is enough?"). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.