

Economics 324: An Economic history of Europe in the Twentieth Century

Professor Joel Mokyr/Marlous van Waijenburg
Winter 2014

Note: This course is a survey of some of the main issues of the Industrialized World in the period 1890-1989. Each week, a different topic will be discussed. While the main emphasis will be on Europe, the North-American experience will also be discussed and comparisons with other countries will be made frequently.

Course structure: there will be two lectures a week. The lecture material and readings should be viewed as largely complementary, since the lectures will explain and in some case may dispute the readings, hence both lecture materials and readings will be necessary to pass the course with a good grade. All powerpoint notes, graphs and tables shown in class will be made available on the Blackboard site for this course following the lectures. Questions, special requests, etc. will be handled at my office hours Tuesdays 11-1 in AAH 3214 and by email to lousje10@gmail.com and j-mokyr@northwestern.edu.

Course requirements: There will one mandatory midterm exam, and an inclusive final examination. The midterm will take place on Thursday Feb. 6, and will cover all reading and lecture materials of weeks 1-4. Students who score in the top 33% in the midterm will have the option of writing a paper in lieu of the exam. The topic and methodology of the papers have to be approved by the T.A. for the course, and the paper has to be submitted no later than the day of the final.

Readings: Three books are required, namely Broadberry and O'Rourke, eds., *The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe*; Gabriel Tortella, *The Origins of the Twenty-first century*. Paperback ed.; and Ivan T. Berend, *An Economic history of Twentieth Century Europe*. Paperback ed. All other readings (all required) have been placed on the course website on Blackboard in the Documents sections in a file named "Course Readings."

Week I: Technological progress and Growth in the Twentieth century

1. Joel Mokyr, 2nd *Industrial Revolution* and Joel Mokyr, "The Contribution of Economic History to the Study of Innovation and Technical Change: 1750-1914." In Bronwyn Hall and Nathan Rosenberg, eds., *Handbook of The Economics of Innovation* Vol. I. Oxford, Elsevier, sections 5 and 6 only.
2. Smil, *Creating the Twentieth century* , ch. 1; Smil, *Transforming the Twentieth century* , chs. 1-2, pp. 2-43 only.
3. Stephen Broadberry and Kevin H. O'Rourke, *The Cambridge Economic history of Modern Europe*, Vol. 2: *1870 to the Present*. chs 2, 8.
4. Nicholas Crafts and Kevin O'Rourke, "Twentieth Century Growth." Oxford University Discussion Papers, Sept. 2013.

Week II: The great demographic transition

1. Massimo Livi-Bacci, *The Population of Europe*, chs 6-7.
2. Broadberry and O'Rourke, chs. 5, 10.
3. Cain and Patterson, *The Children of Eve*, chs. 2-4.

Week III: World War I and the Economies of the twenties

1. C. Feinstein, P. Temin, and Gianni Toniolo, *The World Economy between the World Wars* chs. 2,3
2. Gabriel Tortella, *Origins of the Twentieth First century*, ch. VIII, pp. 146–51, 160–72.
3. Broadberry and O'Rourke, ch. 6

Week IV: The Great Depression in Europe

1. Feinstein, Temin and Toniolo, chs 6,7,8,9.
2. Gabriel Tortella, *Origins of the Twentieth First century*, ch. IX, pp. 173–204.

Week V: The strange Economics of Fascism, Communism and Totalitarianism

1. Ivan Berend, *An Economic History of Twentieth Century Europe*, ch. 3 + pp. 133–50.
2. Tortella, *Origins*, pp. 151–60, 204-29.

Week VI: World War II

1. Niall Ferguson, "The Second World War" In Michael J. Oliver and Derek Aldcroft, eds., *Economic Disasters of the Twentieth century* ch. 3.
2. Mark Harrison, ed., *The Economics of World War II* chapters 1, 2.
3. Broadberry and O'Rourke, ch. 6 (reread)

Week VII: The Collectivist Economies: successes and failures.

1. Berend, *An Economic history*, pp. 150–89.
2. Tortella, *Origins*, chapter XI
3. Barry Eichengreen, *The European Economy Since 1945*, chapter 5

Week VIII: Postwar Growth, The “Mixed Economies” and Rise of the European Welfare State

1. Berend, *An Economic history* pp. 212–62
2. Peter Lindert, *Growing Public*, chs. 1-2, 7,8.
3. Broadberry and O’Rourke, ch. 12.
4. Nicholas Crafts and Gianni Toniolo, “Postwar Growth: an Overview.” In *Economic Growth in Europe since 1945*, pp. 1-37.

Week IX: Institutions, European Integration and the EU

1. Willem Molle, *The Economics of European Integration*, 5th ed., chs. 3, 4, 5, 7, 18.
2. Barry Eichengreen, “Institutions and Economic growth in Europe after World War II.” In *Economic Growth in Europe since 1945*, pp. 38–65.
3. Broadberry and O’Rourke, ch. 11.