EC224 War and Economy in the Twentieth Century, 2018/19

Core Reading

Pre-Reading
Why nations fight

How armies fight

What happened in the twentieth century

1. The economist’s toolkit

Mark Harrison. This version 7 January 2019.


2. War and the state


3. WW1: Origins


4. WW1: Mobilization


5. WW1: Economic warfare and food


6. WW1: Costs and consequences


7. WW2: Origins

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. A historian explains why World War II was all about food.


8. WW2: Mobilization


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. (Preprint on my website.)


9. WW2: Conquest and food

Collingham, Lizzie. 2010. The Taste of War: World War Two and the Battle for Food. London: Allen Lane. A historian explains why World War II was all about food. Read especially chapters 9 (Germany exports hunger to the East), 14 (The Soviet Union -- fighting on empty), and 15 (Germany and Britain -- two approaches to entitlement).

Snyder and Ray Brandon. Oxford: Oxford University Press. An historian explains why the war on the Eastern front was all about killing people.

Klemann, Hein, and Sergei Kudriashov. 2012. Occupied Economies: An Economic History of Nazi-Occupied Europe, 1939-1945, part 3 (Economic Life). London and New York: Berg. An economist and a historian explain why World War II was all about food and killing people. Read especially chapters 9 ("The exploitation of occupied Europe") and 10 ("The hunt for labour").

Liberman, Peter. 1996. Does Conquest Pay? The Exploitation of Occupied Industrial Societies. Princeton: Princeton University Press. A political scientist explains why World War II was not such a good idea . . . or was it? Read especially chapters 1, 2, and 8, and select other chapters for supporting information.


10. WW2: Economic warfare: food and factories


Olson, Mançur. 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. An economist explains why blockades mattered, but not in the way that you think. Chapter 1 (A theory of wartime shortages) gives the canonical explanation; by this point, you should have read it already. In addition, see chapters 2 (Food and fear of war), 5 (World War II), and 6 (Summary and conclusions)

United States Strategic Bombing Survey. 1945. Summary report (European War). Washington, DC. Economic warfare did matter. (Link from Moodle resources page.)

11. WW2: Alliances


Lane, Ann, and Howard Temperley, eds. 1995. The Rise and Fall of the Grand Alliance, 1941-1945. Basingstoke: Macmillan. The Eastern front, the Soviet Union, and Allies mattered a lot. Read "American Foreign Policy and Lend-Lease" (by Burk) and "The Soviet Economy and Relations with the United States and Britain" (by Harrison – preprint on my website).


12. WW2: Costs and consequences


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. (Preprint on my website.)


13. Cold War: Costs and consequences


14. Military Keynesianism

15. Alliances and burden sharing

16. Market power

17. Rent seeking
