

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)  
Department of Economic History

## **EH207: The Making of an Economic Superpower: China since 1850**

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Meng Xue

Readings for 2021-2022

Michaelmas Term

### *Week 1: Econometrics Crash Course I*

No assigned readings. Class slides and handouts will be distributed.

### *Week 2: General Introduction*

- Class Readings:

- Loren Brandt, Debin Ma, and Thomas G Rawski (2014a). “From Divergence to Convergence: Re-evaluating the History Behind China’s Economic Boom”. *Journal of Economic Literature* 52.1, 45–123
- Kent G Deng (2016a). “Mapping China’s Growth and Development in the Long Run, 221 BC to 2020”. In: Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Company, 2016, 93–147

- Additional Readings:

- Kenneth Pomeranz (2000a). “The Great Divergence, China, Europe and the making of the modern world economy Princeton”. In: Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000, Part ONE
- Roy Bin Wong (1997a). *China transformed: historical change and the limits of European experience*. Cornell University Press, 1997, Chapter 1
- Dwight Perkins et al. (1975). *China’s modern economy in historical perspective*. Stanford University Press, 1975, Introduction
- Philip Richardson (1999). *Economic change in China, c. 1800-1950*. 40. Cambridge University Press, 1999, Introduction

### Week 3: Traditional China

- Class Readings:

- Kent G Deng (2016b). “Mapping China’s Growth and Development in the Long Run, 221 BC to 2020”. In: Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Company, 2016, 9–23
- Richard Von Glahn (2016a). “The Economic History of China: From Antiquity to the Nineteenth Century”. In: Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2016, 295–347
- Roy Bin Wong (1997b). *China transformed: historical change and the limits of European experience*. Cornell University Press, 1997, Chapter 5

- Additional Readings:

- Pierre-Etienne Will, R Wong, and R Bin Wong (1991). “Nourish the People: the State Civilian Granary System in China, 1650–1850”. In: Ann Arbor: Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 1991, 104–141, 476–507
- Kent Deng and Sun Shengmin (2019). “China’s Extraordinary Population Expansion and Its Determinants during the Qing Period, 1644–1911”. *Population Review* 58.1
- Wang Feng, Feng Wang, et al. (2001). *One quarter of humanity: Malthusian mythologies and Chinese realities, 1700–2000*. Harvard University Press, 2001

### Week 4: Great Divergence I

- Class Readings:

- Kenneth Pomeranz (2000b). “The Great Divergence, China, Europe and the making of the modern world economy Princeton”. In: Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000, Chapter 6
- Kenneth Pomeranz (2011). “Ten years after: responses and reconsiderations”. *Historically Speaking* 12.4, 20–25

- Additional Readings:

- Roy Bin Wong (1997c). *China transformed: historical change and the limits of European experience*. Cornell University Press, 1997, Chapter 6
- Jan De Vries (2011). “The great divergence after ten years: Justly celebrated yet hard to believe”. *Historically Speaking* 12.4, 13–15
- Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and Roy Bin Wong (2011). *Before and beyond divergence*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011

### Week 5: Great Divergence II

- Class Readings:

- Robert C Allen, Jean-Pascal Bassino, Debin Ma, Christine Moll-Murata, and Jan Luiten Van Zanden (2011). “Wages, prices, and living standards in China, 1738–1925: in comparison with Europe, Japan, and India”. *The Economic History Review* 64, 8–38
- Bozhong Li (2005). “Farm labour productivity in Jiangnan, 1620-1850”. *Living Standards in the Past*, 55

- Additional Readings:

- Robert C Allen (2009). “Agricultural productivity and rural incomes in England and the Yangtze Delta, c. 1620–c. 1820 1”. *The Economic History Review* 62.3, 525–550
- Philip CC Huang (2002). “Development or involution in eighteenth-century Britain and China? A Review of Kenneth Pomeranz’s the great divergence: China, Europe, and the making of the modern world economy”. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 61.2, 501–538
- Robert Brenner and Christopher Isett (2002). “England’s divergence from China’s Yangzi Delta: Property relations, microeconomics, and patterns of development”. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 61.2, 609–662

### Week 6: Reading Week

### Week 7: Late Qing and Republican China

- Class Readings:

- Richard Von Glahn (2016b). “The Economic History of China: From Antiquity to the Nineteenth Century”. In: Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2016, 348–399
- Kang Chao (1975). “The Growth of a Modern Cotton Textile Industry and the Competition with Handicrafts”. *China’s Modern Economy in Historical Perspective*, 167–201

- Additional Readings:

- Andrew J Nathan (1983). “A constitutional republic: The Peking government, 1916–28”. *The Cambridge History of China* 12, 1912–1949
- Thomas G Rawski (1975). “The Growth of Producer Industries, 1900-1971”. *China’s Modern Economy in Historical Perspective*, 203–221
- Noam Yuchtman (2017). “Teaching to the tests: An economic analysis of traditional and modern education in late imperial and republican China”. *Explorations in economic history* 63, 70–90

## Week 8: Communism I

- Class Readings:

- Loren Brandt, Debin Ma, and Thomas G Rawski (2014b). “From Divergence to Convergence: Re-evaluating the History Behind China’s Economic Boom”. *Journal of Economic Literature* 52.1, 45–123
- Justin Yifu Lin (1990). “Collectivization and China’s agricultural crisis in 1959–1961”. *Journal of Political Economy* 98.6, 1228–1252
- Xin Meng, Nancy Qian, and Pierre Yared (2015). “The institutional causes of China’s Great Famine, 1959–1961”. *The Review of Economic Studies* 82.4, 1568–1611

- Additional Readings:

- Dali L Yang (1996). *Calamity and reform in China: State, rural society, and institutional change since the Great Leap Famine*. Stanford University Press, 1996
- James Kai-sing Kung and Justin Yifu Lin (2003). “The causes of China’s great leap famine, 1959–1961”. *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52.1, 51–73
- Shuo Chen and Xiaohuan Lan (2017). “There will be killing: Collectivization and death of draft animals”. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 9.4, 58–77

## Week 9: Communism II

- Class Readings:

- Andrew G Walder and Yang Su (2003). “The cultural revolution in the countryside: Scope, timing and human impact”. *The China Quarterly* 173, 74–99
- Yi Chen, Ziyang Fan, Xiaomin Gu, and Li-An Zhou (2020). “Arrival of young talent: The send-down movement and rural education in China”. *American Economic Review* 110.11, 3393–3430

- Additional Readings:

- Roderick MacFarquhar and Michael Schoenhals (2009). *Mao’s last revolution*. Harvard University Press, 2009
- Yuyu Chen and Li-An Zhou (2007). “The long-term health and economic consequences of the 1959–1961 famine in China”. *Journal of health economics* 26.4, 659–681
- Liang Bai and Lingwei Wu (2020). “Political movement and trust formation: Evidence from the Cultural Revolution (1966–76)”. *European Economic Review* 122, 103331

Week 10: Post-1979 Economic Reform

- Class Readings:

- Loren Brandt, Debin Ma, and Thomas G Rawski (2014c). “From Divergence to Convergence: Re-evaluating the History Behind China’s Economic Boom”. *Journal of Economic Literature* 52.1, 45–123
- Chenggang Xu (2011). “The Fundamental Institutions of China’s Reforms and Development”. *The Journal of Economic Literature* 49.4, 1076–1151

- Additional Readings:

- Justin Yifu Lin (1992). “Rural reforms and agricultural growth in China”. *The American economic review*, 34–51
- Yingyi Qian and Barry R Weingast (1997). “Federalism as a commitment to reserving market incentives”. *Journal of Economic perspectives* 11.4, 83–92
- Yingyi Qian and Gerard Roland (1998). “Federalism and the soft budget constraint”. *American economic review*, 1143–1162
- Ravi Kanbur and Xiaobo Zhang (2005). “Fifty years of regional inequality in China: a journey through central planning, reform, and openness”. *Review of development Economics* 9.1, 87–106

Week 11: Econometrics Crash Course II

No assigned readings. Class slides and handouts will be distributed.

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Week 12: Geography

- Class Readings:

- Eric Jones (2003). “The European miracle: environments, economies, and geopolitics in the history of Europe and Asia”. In: Cambridge, UK; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2003, 225–238
- Philip T. Hoffman (2015). “Why Did Europe Conquer the World?” In: Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015, 1–4

- Additional Readings:

- Jared M Diamond and Doug Orduño (1999). *Guns, germs, and steel*. Books on Tape, 1999
- Quamrul Ashraf and Oded Galor (2011). “Dynamics and stagnation in the Malthusian epoch”. *American Economic Review* 101.5, 2003–41

- Jesús Fernández-Villaverde, Mark Koyama, Youhong Lin, and Tuan-Hwee Sng (2020). *The fractured-land hypothesis*. Tech. rep. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2020
- Mark Koyama, Chiaki Moriguchi, and Tuan-Hwee Sng (2018). “Geopolitics and Asia’s little divergence: State building in China and Japan after 1850”. *Journal of Economic Behavior Organization* 155, 178–204

### Week 13: State

- Class Readings:

- Philip A Kuhn (2002). “Origins of the Modern Chinese State”. In: Stanford, Calif.: Standford University Press, 2002, 80–113
- Roy Bin Wong (1997d). *China transformed: historical change and the limits of European experience*. Cornell University Press, 1997, Chapter 4

- Additional Readings:

- Charles Tilly (1975). “Reflections on the history of European state-making”. *The formation of national states in Western Europe* 38
- Wenkai He (2013). *Paths toward the modern fiscal state*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2013
- Roy Bin Wong (1997e). *China transformed: historical change and the limits of European experience*. Cornell University Press, 1997, Chapters 7 & 10

### Week 14: Formal and Informal Institutions

- Class Readings:

- Avner Greif and Guido Tabellini (2010). “Cultural and institutional bifurcation: China and Europe compared”. *American Economic Review* 100.2, 135–40
- Yu Hao and Melanie Meng Xue (2017). “Friends from afar: The Taiping Rebellion, cultural proximity and primary schooling in the Lower Yangzi, 1850–1949”. *Explorations in Economic History* 63, 44–69

- Additional Readings:

- Douglass C North (1991). “Institutions”. *Journal of economic perspectives* 5.1, 97–112
- Avner Greif (1989). “Reputation and coalitions in medieval trade: evidence on the Maghribi traders”. *The journal of economic history* 49.4, 857–882
- Elinor Ostrom (1990). *Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge university press, 1990

- Melissa Dell (2010). “The persistent effects of Peru’s mining mita”. *Econometrica* 78.6, 1863–1903
- Taisu Zhang (2017). *The Laws and Economics of Confucianism: Kinship and Property in Preindustrial China and England*. Cambridge University Press, 2017

#### Week 15: Culture

- Class Readings:

- Nathan Nunn (2012). “Culture and the Historical Process”. *Economic History of Developing Regions* 27.sup-1, 108–126
- Stelios Michalopoulos and Melanie Meng Xue (2021). “Folklore”. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 1, 54

- Additional Readings:

- Joel Mokyr (2016). “A Culture of Growth: the Origins of the Modern Economy”. In: Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016
- Raquel Fernández (2011). “Does culture matter?” *Handbook of social economics* 1, 481–510
- Hannah Schildberg-Hörisch (2018). “Are risk preferences stable?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 32.2, 135–54

#### Week 16: Culture: Trust

- Class Readings:

- Melanie Meng Xue (2020a). “Autocratic Rule and Social Capital: Evidence from Imperial China”. *Available at SSRN 2856803*
- Gerard Padró i Miquel, Nancy Qian, Yiqing Xu, and Yang Yao (2015). “Making democracy work: Culture, social capital and elections in China”. *Social Capital and Elections in China (April 2015)*. NBER Working Paper w21058

- Additional Readings:

- Francis Fukuyama (1996). *Trust: social virtues and the creation of prosperity*. New York: Free Press, 1996
- Robert D Putnam et al. (2000). *Bowling alone: The collapse and revival of American community*. Simon / schuster, 2000
- Nathan Nunn and Leonard Wantchekon (2011). “The slave trade and the origins of mistrust in Africa”. *American Economic Review* 101.7, 3221–52

Week 17: Reading Week

Week 18: Culture: Gender

- Class Readings:

- Mark Elvin (1984). “Female virtue and the state in China”. *Past & Present* 104.1, 111–152
- Nancy Qian (2008). “Missing women and the price of tea in China: The effect of sex-specific earnings on sex imbalance”. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123.3, 1251–1285
- Melanie Meng Xue (2020b). *High-Value Work and the Rise of Women: The Cotton Revolution and Gender Equality in China*. Tech. rep. 2020

- Additional Readings:

- Harriet Thelma Zurndorfer (1998). *Chinese Women in the Imperial Past: New Perspectives*. Vol. 44. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 1998
- Francesca Bray (1997). *Technology and gender: fabrics of power in late imperial China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997
- Susan Mann (1997). *Precious records: Women in China’s long eighteenth century*. Stanford University Press, 1997
- Matthias Doepke and Michele Tertilt (2009). “Women’s Liberation: What’s in it for Men?” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124.4, 1541–1591
- Tine De Moor and Jan Luiten Van Zanden (2010). “Girl power: the European marriage pattern and labour markets in the North Sea region in the late medieval and early modern period”. *The economic history review* 63.1, 1–33
- Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn (2013). “On the origins of gender roles: Women and the plough”. *The quarterly journal of economics* 128.2, 469–530
- Paola Giuliano (2017). “Gender: An historical perspective”

Week 19: Human Capital

- Class Readings:

- Benjamin A Elman (1991). “Political, social, and cultural reproduction via civil service examinations in late imperial China”. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 50.1, 7–28
- Joerg Baten, Debin Ma, Stephen Morgan, and Qing Wang (2010). “Evolution of living standards and human capital in China in the 18–20th centuries: Evidences from real wages, age-heaping, and anthropometrics”. *Explorations in Economic History* 47.3, 347–359

- Additional Readings:

- Benjamin A Elman et al. (2000). *A cultural history of civil examinations in late imperial China*. Univ of California Press, 2000
- Evelyn Sakakida Rawski (1979). *Education and popular literacy in Ch'ing China*. Vol. 6. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1979
- Carol H Shiue (2017). “Human capital and fertility in Chinese clans before modern growth”. *Journal of Economic Growth* 22.4, 351–396
- Sascha O Becker and Ludger Woessmann (2009). “Was Weber wrong? A human capital theory of Protestant economic history”. *The quarterly journal of economics* 124.2, 531–596
- Joel Mokyr (2010). *The Enlightened economy an economic history of Britain 1700-1850*. Yale University Press, 2010
- Oded Galor and Omer Moav (2004). “From physical to human capital accumulation: Inequality and the process of development”. *The Review of Economic Studies* 71.4, 1001–1026

#### Week 20: Social Mobility

- Class Readings:

- Cameron Campbell and James Lee (2008). “Kin networks, marriage, and social mobility in late imperial China”. *Social Science History* 32.2, 175–214
- Carol H Shiue (2019). “Social Mobility in the Long Run: A Temporal Analysis of China from 1300 to 1900”

- Additional Readings:

- Yuyu Chen, Suresh Naidu, Tinghua Yu, and Noam Yuchtman (2015). “Intergenerational mobility and institutional change in 20th century China”. *Explorations in Economic History* 58, 44–73
- Qin Jiang and James Kai-sing Kung (2020). “Social mobility in late imperial China: reconsidering the ladder of successypothesis”. *Modern China*
- Ping-Ti Ho (1962). “The Ladder of Success in Imperial China: Aspects of Social Mobility, 1368-1911”. In: New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1962, 92–125, 168–221
- Gregory Clark (2014). *The son also rises*. Princeton University Press, 2014

#### Week 21: Trade

- Class Readings:

- Carol H Shiue (2002). “Transport costs and the geography of arbitrage in eighteenth-century China”. *American Economic Review* 92.5, 1406–1419
- Carol H Shiue and Wolfgang Keller (2007). “Markets in China and Europe on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution”. *American Economic Review* 97.4, 1189–1216
- Additional Readings:
  - J.K. Fairbank (1964). *Trade and Diplomacy on the China Coast: The Opening of the Treaty Ports, 1842-1854*. Harvard historical studies. Harvard University Press, 1964
  - Timothy Brook, Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, et al. (2000). *Opium Regimes: China, Britain, and Japan, 1839-1952*. Univ of California Press, 2000
  - Ruixue Jia (2014). “The Legacies of Forced Freedom: China’s Treaty Port”. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 96.4, 596–608

Week 22: *Environment and Disasters*

- Class Readings:
  - Peter C Perdue (2017). “The Environmental History of China: Past, Present, and Future”. *A Companion to Chinese History*, 252
  - Geoffrey Parker (2013). “The ‘Great Enterprise’ in China, 1618–84”. In: *Global Crisis: War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century*. Yale University Press, 2013, 115–151
  - Ying Bai and James Kai-sing Kung (2011). “Climate shocks and Sino-nomadic conflict”. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 93.3, 970–981
- Additional Readings:
  - Lillian M. Li (2007). *Fighting famine in North China: state, market, and environmental decline, 1690s-1990s*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2007
  - Kenneth Pomeranz (1993). *The making of a hinterland: State, society, and economy in inland North China, 1853-1937*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993
  - Kathryn Edgerton-Tarpley (2008). *Tears from Iron*. University of California Press, 2008