

ECON 208 - FALL 2024

Instructor: Seven Ağır

Lecture Hours: Wednesday 10.40-13.30

Office Hours: Wednesday 16:40 or by e-mail appointment (sevenag@metu.edu.tr)

Recitation Hours: TBA

Course Description: The course examines main topics of world economic history, including early state formation, historical development of capitalism, industrial revolution, colonialism and late development. The material will provide you with the examples of good scholarship in economic history. At the end of the course, you will have a good grasp of the major turning points in the historical evolution of capitalist world economy as well as ‘economic history’ debates around the crucial aspects of this evolution, including the role of gender and family structure, the political-economic institutions and unequal relations/interactions among regions of the world. You will also be familiar with various methodologies employed in the global economic history scholarship.

Grading: Attendance 10%, Quizzes 20%, Midterm 30%, Final 40%.

- Exams will be face-to-face and essay-type questions.
- Attendance refers to both your being present / participating in the recitations.

IMPORTANT NOTE I: Students are expected to attend classes and read the material before the classes. For two reasons, reading is crucial in this course. First, there will be **quizzes every week!** You need to read to get good grades. Second, critical reading in social sciences is an indispensable skill in both academic and professional life. What is **critical reading**?

<https://gsi.berkeley.edu/gsi-guide-contents/critical-reading-intro/social-science/>

IMPORTANT NOTE II: Students are expected to check the **announcements on odtu-class** website which will be delivered to their e-mails via ODTU-Class. There may be revisions regarding the must readings, which will be announced at least 4-5 days before the class.

MIDTERM DATE: 20 NOVEMBER 2024

No make-ups without valid excuse (i.e., official health report)

Course Structure: We'll meet in person every week and there will be one-hour recitation (TBD).

Course Material: All the mandatory and suggested readings will be available in the Xerox room at FEAS-A Building. (B) refers to background readings, from Cambridge You can also find most of them online.

1. Introducing the Field: Economic History

Cameron, R. "Has Economic History a Role in an Economist's Education?" *The American Economic Review* 55.1/2 (1965): 112-115.

Abramitzky, R. "Economics and the Modern Economic Historian" *The Journal of Economic History* 75.4 (2015): 1240-1251.

Suggested:

Temin, Peter. *Economic History and Economic development: New Economic History in retrospect and prospect*. No. w20107. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014.

David, Paul A. "Path dependence, its critics, and the quest for historical economics" *Evolution and Path Dependence in Economic Ideas*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2001, pp. 15-40.

Christopher L. Colvin and Homer Wagenaar, "Economics versus History," in *An Economist's Guide to Economic History*

2. On 'Human Nature' and Hunter-Gatherer Societies

Suzman, J. Part Two, "The Original Affluent Society" and "Ghosts in the Forest," in *Work: A Deep History, from the Stone Age to the Age of Robots*.

Suggested:

Ingold, T. "Against Human Nature." *Evolutionary epistemology, language and culture: A non-adaptationist, systems theoretical approach*. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands, 2006. 259-281.

Smith, Vernon L. "Human nature: An economic perspective." *Daedalus* 133.4 (2004): 67-76.

Graeber, David, and David Wengrow. *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, Penguin UK, 2021.

Bowles, Santa Fe. "JEL Book Review: The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity by David Graeber and David Wengrow."

3. On the Early State and Markets

"Agro-Ecology of the Early State" and "Fragility of the Early State," in James Scott's *Against the Grain*,

Link: <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/james-c-scott-against-the-grain#toc36>

Temin, Peter. "The Economy of the Early Roman Empire," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20.1 (2006): 133-151.

Suggested:

Korolkov, Maxim. "Building Empire, Creating Markets: Commercial Policies and Practices in Imperial Qin (221–207 BCE)." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 66.1-2 (2023): 206-236.

Fernández-Villaverde, J., Koyama, M., Lin, Y., & Sng, T. H. (2023). "The Fractured-Land Hypothesis," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(2), 1173-1231.
Scheidel, Walter. "From the 'Great Convergence' to the 'First Great Divergence': Roman and Qin-Han State Formation and Its Aftermath." *Princeton/Stanford Working Papers in Classics* (2007).

North, Douglass C. "Markets and Other Allocation Systems in History: the challenge of Karl Polanyi," *Journal of European Economic History* 6.3 (1977): 703-716.

4. On What Preceded Capitalism I -- Markets

Wickham, Chris. "How did the Feudal Economy Work? The Economic Logic of Medieval Societies," *Past & Present* 251.1 (2021): 3-40.

Desierto, Desiree A., and Mark Koyama. "Feudal Political Economy." *Economic Theory* (2024): 1-40. **Read only:** Parts 1, 5 and 6

Suggested:

Ghosh, Shami. "Chris Wickham on 'The Economic Logic of Medieval Societies': A Response." *Past & Present* 260.1 (2023): 269-286.

Wickham, Chris. "A reply to Shami Ghosh." *Past & Present* (2023): gtac046.

Wood, Ellen Meiksins. "The Agrarian Origins of Capitalism," *Monthly Review* 50 (1998): 14-31.

Epstein, Stephan R. "The late medieval crisis as an "integration crisis"." (2000): 25-50.

5. On What Preceded Capitalism II – States and Institutions

Tilly, Charles. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." *Collective violence, contentious politics, and social change*. Routledge, 2017. 121-139.

Banaji, Jairus. "Islam, the Mediterranean and the Rise of Capitalism," *Historical Materialism* 15.1 (2007): 47-74.

Suggested:

Vries, Peter HH. "Governing Growth: A Comparative Analysis of the Role of the State in the Rise of the West." *Journal of World History* (2002): 67-138. Read only pp. 67-82

Anderson, P. (2013). *Lineages of the absolutist state*. Verso Books, "The Absolutist State in the West," and Two Notes: "Japanese Feudalism" and "the Asiatic Mode of Production"

Lane, Frederic. "Public Debt and Private Wealth," (Ch. 6 in *Profits from Power*, pp. 72-81).

Frank, A. G. "Development and underdevelopment in the New World: Smith and Marx vs. the Weberians," *Theory and Society* 2.4 (1975): 431-466.

Robert Brenner, "The Origins of Capitalist Development: A Critique of Neo-Smithian Marxism," *New Left Review*, no. 104 (July-Aug. 1977), pp. 25-92.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. "The rise and future demise of the world capitalist system: Concepts for comparative analysis." *Comparative studies in society and history* 16.4 (1974): 387-415.

6. On What Preceded Industrialization – Women, Patriarchy and Population

De Moor, Tine, and Jan Luiten Van Zanden. "Girl power: the European Marriage Pattern and Labour Markets in the North Sea Region in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Period," *Economic History Review* 63.1 (2010): 1-33.

Humphries, Jane, "Careworn: The Economic History of Caring Labor," *The Journal of Economic History* 84(2), 2024: 319-351.

Suggested:

Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch*, "The Accumulation of Labor and the Degradation of Women," only the following pages: Part 1, pp. 61-64 and "Population Decline, Economic Crisis, and the Disciplining of Women" pp. 85-97.

Heidi Hartmann, "The Historical Roots of Occupational Segregation, Capitalism, Patriarchy, and Job Segregation by Sex."

Goldin, Claudia. "The quiet revolution that transformed women's employment, education, and family." *American economic review* 96.2 (2006): 1-21.

Honeyman, Katrina, and Jordan Goodman. "Women's work, gender conflict, and labour markets in Europe, 1500-1900." *Economic History Review* (1991): 608-628.

Dennison, T., and Sheilagh O. "Does the European marriage pattern explain economic growth?" *Journal of Economic History* 74.3 (2014): 651-693.

7. On What Preceded Industrialization II – Land and Labor

Jones, Eric L. "Environment, Agriculture, and Industrialization in Europe," *Agricultural History* 51.3 (1977): 491-502.

Beckert, Sven. "Capturing Labour, Conquering Land," in *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*, New York.

Suggested:

Ogilvie, Sheilagh. "The Economics of Guilds." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28.4 (2014): 169-192.

Perlin, Frank. "Proto-industrialization and pre-colonial South Asia." *Past & Present* 98.1 (1983): 30-95.

Wright, Gavin. "Slavery and Anglo-American capitalism revisited." *The Economic History Review* 73.2 (2020): 353-383.

Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, 1944.

Clegg, John J. "Capitalism and Slavery," *Critical Historical Studies* 2.2 (2015): 281-304.

Richardson, D. "The slave trade, sugar, and British economic growth, 1748-1776." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 17.4 (1987): 739-769.

8. On Industrial Revolution I

K. Pomeranz (2002), "Political Economy and Ecology on the Eve of Industrialization: Europe, China, and the Global Conjuncture," *American Historical Review* 107(2), pp. 425-446.

Suggested:

Berg, Maxine, and Pat Hudson, "Rehabilitating the Industrial Revolution 1," *The Economic History Review* 45.1 (1992): 24-50.

9. On Industrial Revolution II

R. C. Allen (2011), "Why the Industrial Revolution was British: Commerce, induced invention, and the Scientific Revolution," *Economic History Review* 64(2), pp. 357-384.

Suggested:

N. F. R. Crafts (1977), 'Industrial Revolution in England and France: Some thoughts on the question, "Why was England first?"', *Economic History Review* 30(3), pp. 429-441.

Humphries, Jane, and Benjamin Schneider. "Spinning the industrial revolution." *The Economic History Review* 72.1 (2019): 126-155.

10. On Falling Behind: Imperialism and De-industrialization

Pamuk, Şevket. "The Ottoman Empire in Comparative Perspective," *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)* 11.2 (1988): 127-149.

Clark, Edward C. "The Ottoman Industrial Revolution." *International journal of Middle East studies* 5.1 (1974): 65-76.

Suggested:

Issawi, C. (1980). "De-Industrialization and Re-Industrialization in the Middle East Since 1800." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 12(4): 469–479.

Okyar, O. "A new look at the problem of economic growth in the Ottoman Empire (1800-1914)." *Journal of european economic history* 16.1 (1987): 7.

Lenin, V. I. "Imperialism as the Final Stage of Capitalism"

Dominic Lieven, *The End of Tsarist Russia: The March to World War I and Revolution* (New York, 2015).

Schumpeter, Joseph. *Imperialism and social classes*

Gallagher, J. and R. Robinson (1953). "The Imperialism of Free Trade." *Economic History Review* 6(1): 1–15.

11. On Catching-Up: Late Comer Lessons

Ha Joon Chang. "Kicking Away the Ladder: Infant Industry Promotion in Historical Perspective," *Oxford Development Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 1, 2003.

Recommended:

Gerschenkron, A. (1962). *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective: A Book of Essays*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Kasza, Gregory J. "Gerschenkron, Amsden, and Japan: The State in Late Development," *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 19.2 (2018): 146-172.

Mathews, John A. "Latecomer Industrialization," *Handbook of Alternative Theories of economic development*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2016. 613-636.

Alice Amsden, *Asia's Next Giant: South Korea and Late Industrialization* (New York, 1989), ch. 1, 4-6, pp. 3-23, 79-155.

Vivek Chibber, *Locked in Place: State-Building and Late Industrialization in India* (Princeton, 2003), ch. 2, pp. 13-47, 258-66.

Milor, Vedat. *Devleti geri getirmek: Türkiye ve Fransa'da planlama ve ekonomik kalkınma üzerine karşılaştırmalı bir çalışma*. İletişim Yayınları, 2022.

12. Back to the Future: On Ecology and the Limits to Economic Growth

Foster, John Bellamy. 1994. "The Vulnerable Planet" in *The Vulnerable Planet: A Short Economic History of the Environment*, New York: Cornerstone Books.

Suggested:

Rodrik, Dani, "Addressing Challenges of a New Era," *Finance & Development* (2024).

Wu, Tong, et al. "Triple Bottom Line or Trilemma? Global Tradeoffs Between Prosperity, Inequality, and the Environment." *World Development* 178 (2024): 106595.