

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

Professor Joel Mokyr

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Winter 2020

***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. Because the discussion will be according to topic, the course will not be strictly chronological (though many of the readings are).*

***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 some of the readings. However, considerable amounts of material covered in the readings will not be touched upon in class for lack of time, yet students will be responsible for them. 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 Canvas site for this course following the lectures. Questions, special requests, etc. will be handled at my office hours Tuesdays 11-1 in Kellogg 3335 and by email to 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 in the week following the midterm, and the paper has to be submitted no later than the day of the final.*

***Readings:** Four books are required, namely Broadberry and O'Rourke, eds., *The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe* Volume 2: 1870 to the Present (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). Gabriel Tortella, *The Origins of the Twenty-First century*. New York: Routledge, 2010 Paperback ed.; Nicholas Crafts, *Forging Ahead, Falling Behind, and Fighting Back: British Economic Growth from the Industrial Revolution to the Financial Crisis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018); and Ivan T. Berend, *An Economic History of Twentieth Century Europe*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, 2016) Paperback ed.*

All other readings (all *required*) will be placed on the course website on Canvas in the "Files" section in a file named "Readings" divided into "weeks."

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, *Forging Ahead, Falling Behind*, Ch. 1, Ch. 2 (background only), Chs. 3-4.

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

1. Berend, *An Economic history* pp. 212–62
2. Crafts, *Falling Behind*, Chapter 5.
3. Peter Lindert, *Growing Public*, chs. 1-2, 7,8.
4. Broadberry and O’Rourke, ch. 12.
5. Nicholas Crafts and Gianni Toniolo, “Postwar Growth: an Overview.” In *Economic Growth in Europe since 1945*, pp. 1-37.
6. Crafts, *Forging Ahead*, ch. 5.

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.