

Writing Assignment II: Historical Data Analysis

Due Date: Tuesday April 18th.

An analysis of an historical research question, of 750 words or less, is due in class on Tuesday, April 18. This analysis should draw upon historical data and economic concepts to develop a preliminary answer to an historical research question.

Requirements:

- 1) 750 words or fewer (not including references, tables and figures).
- 2) Submit both a hard copy in class and an electronic copy in rich text format (.rtf) via email to czelusta@stanford.edu with jdr@econ.berkeley.edu in cc.
- 3) No late assignments will be accepted.

Goals:

- 1) To develop an hypothesis regarding the answer to an historical research question.
- 2) To gather data for the purpose of assessing this hypothesis.
- 3) To analyze this data using economic ideas.

Guidelines:

This assignment will introduce you to the joys and pains of working with data. Your task is to present a preliminary answer to an historical research question. You are not expected to prove a thesis, but rather to develop a reasonable hypothesis and to compare this hypothesis to available data. You should present the data that you gather in a form appropriate to your question (for instance, in a table or figure that summarizes relevant features of the data—look to the course readings for examples). Your analysis may (although is not required to) suggest potential ways of further testing your hypothesis. You should use an accepted bibliographical style.

A large part of the challenge of this assignment will be finding relevant data. While Internet sources are acceptable, you are highly encouraged to use the library as well.

While this assignment is intended to build on Assignment I, you are free to change questions (and should consider doing so if data availability is an issue).

Your grade will be based on 1) the depth and clarity of your argument; 2) appropriate use of data; and 3) use of economic reasoning.