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Berkeley, CA 94720

L&S Discovery Course 80A
Spring 2008
Tues. & Thurs. 11:00-12:00
101 Barker Hall

The Mastery of Nature: A Brief Economic History of the World

Why are some societies rich and others poor, and why has the division of societies between these groups changed so dramatically over time? These are among the most fundamental questions of economics and economic history. We will study how economists and economic historians attempt to answer them in this Discovery Course.

Text. The “text” for this course is Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World* (Princeton University Press, 2007). We will read a portion of Clark’s book every week in order to understand how economic historians think about the big issues of growth, stagnation, development and underdevelopment in the very long run. This book will be supplemented by other readings. Students will be aware that there are two kinds of textbooks. First, those in which the author purportedly suppresses his personal opinions and provides a digest of “the facts” as they are understood by scholars. Second, those in which an opinionated author alerts his readers to unsettled controversies and prompts further reflection. Clark’s book is the second sort. Students should not expect to find conventional wisdom and easy answers. But those who bear with it will be stimulated to think further. *A Farewell to Alms* is for sale at the ASUC store and your favorite on-line bookseller and is on reserve at Moffitt.

Sections. Consult the online schedule of classes for the most up-to-date information.

Readings. Items with web links are accessible from campus by linking through <http://sunsite2.berkeley.edu:8000>.

Readers. Readers are available from Copy Central on Hearst at Euclid by North Gate. Only items that cannot be downloaded from the web are included in the reader. A few items are not available in the reader or the web because permission to reprint or link was denied. Copies of these items are on reserve at Moffitt Library. The reader is also on reserve at Moffitt.

Grades. Your grade will be based on a series of short assignments handed out and collected in section (which will account for 25 percent of your grade), two in-class midterms (each of which will account for 25 percent of the grade), and the final exam (which will account for 25 percent of your grade).

In Lieu of Handouts. This syllabus, the midterms, and the final are the only materials that will be distributed in class. All other materials, including the problem set, will be available exclusively on the L&S Discovery Course 80A web page—
http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/webfac/eichengreen/l&s80a_sp08/l&s80a_sp08.shtml. Portions of the web site are password protected. The password will be given out in class.

Graduate Student Instructors. GSIs for this course are:

Jose Camecho josecamacho@berkeley.edu
Varanya Chaubey vchaubey@econ.Berkeley.EDU

Office Hours. The instructor's office hours for this course are on Wednesday 1:00-3:00 p.m. in 603 Evans Hall. Appointments are necessary and may be made by emailing Cheryl Applewood at capple@econ.berkeley.edu.

Make-Up Exams, etc. No make-up exams will be offered. Students who do not complete one of the three exams will have the other three elements of the course grade boosted so that each accounts for 33 percent of the grade. Students who do not complete two exams should not expect to pass the course.

Special Accommodation. If you require special accommodation for exams due to learning or other disability, you should speak with your TA at the beginning of the semester. You will also need to obtain documentation from the Disabled Students Program.

Readings

1. Introduction and Some Basic Tools (week of January 22-24)

Paul David (1985), "Clio and the Economics of QWERTY,"
American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings, 75, pp. 332-337.
<http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00028282/di950057/95p00945/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331f00501c8237b&0.pdf>

Clive Crook (2007), "Let the Rich Go Forth and Multiply," *Financial Times* (8 August), p. 13.
http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/webfac/eichengreen/l&s80a_sp08/l&s80a_sp08.shtml

2. The Logic of the Malthusian Economy (week of January 29-31)

Clark, Chapters 2 and 3.

Thomas Malthus (1798[1976]), *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, Pelican Classics Edition, Ed. Anthony Flew, London: Penguin Books Ltd., Chapters 1-2, pp. 67-80.
<http://www.esp.org/books/malthus/population/malthus.pdf>

3. Fertility and Life Expectancy (week of February 5-7)

Clark, Chapters 4, 5 and 6.

Carlo Cipolla (1980), *Before the Industrial Revolution: European Society and Economy, 1000-1700*, 2nd Edition, New York: Norton, Chapter 5, pp. 150-166.

E.A. Wrigley (1992), "Why Poverty was Inevitable in Traditional Societies," in John A. Hall and I.C. Jarvie (eds.), *Transition to Modernity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 3, pp. 91-110.

Phyllis Deane (1965), "The Demographic Revolution," in *The First Industrial Revolution*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2, pp. 20-36.

E.A. Wrigley (1983), "The Growth of Population in 18th Century England: A Conundrum Resolved," *Past and Present*, 98, pp. 121-150.

<http://www.jstor.org/view/00312746/ap020100/02a00040/0?frame=noframe&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331f00501c8237b&dpi=3&config=jstor>

4. Agricultural Change or Stagnation? (week of February 12-14)

Robert Allen (1994), "Agriculture During the Industrial Revolution," in Rodrick Floud and Donald McCloskey (eds.), *The Economic History of Britain since 1700*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, vol. 1, Chapter 5, pp. 96-122.

Phyllis Deane (1965), "The Agricultural Revolution," in *The First Industrial Revolution*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 3, pp. 37-52.

5. Technological Change (week of February 19-21)

Clark, Chapter 7.

Carlo Cipolla (1985), "Technology," in *Before the Industrial Revolution: European Society and Economy, 1000-1700, Second Edition*, New York: Norton, Chapter 6, pp. 167-192.

Joel Mokyr (1994), "Technological Change 1700-1830," in Rodrick Floud and Donald McCloskey, *The Economic History of Britain since 1700, Vol. 1, Second Edition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2, pp. 12-43.

E.A. Wrigley (1988), "Definitions and Concepts," in *Continuity, Chance and Change: The Character of the Industrial Revolution in England*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2, pp. 7-67.

6. Institutions and Growth (week of February 26-38)

Clark, Chapters 8 and 9

Douglass C. North and Robert Paul Thomas (1970), "An Economic Theory of the Growth of the Western World," *Economic History Review*, New Series, 23:1, pp.1-17.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0013-0117%28197004%292%3A23%3A1%3C1%3AAETOTG%3E2.0.CO%3B2-B>

Douglass C. North and Barry Weingast (1989), "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in 17th Century England," *Journal of Economic History*, 49:4, pp. 803-832. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-0507%28198912%2949%3A4%3C803%3ACACTEO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-9>

7. Review and Midterm (Week of March 4-6)

8. The Puzzle of the Industrial Revolution (week of March 11-13)

Clark, Chapter 10 and 11

R. Max Hartwell (1965), "The Causes of the Industrial Revolution: An Essay in Methodology," *Economic History Review*, New Series, 18:1, pp. 164-182.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0013-0117%281965%292%3A18%3A1%3C164%3ATCOTIR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-E>

9. The Industrial Revolution in England (week of March 18-20)

Clark, Chapter 12

N.F.R. Crafts (1977), "Industrial Revolution in England and France: Some Thoughts on the Question Why Was England First?" *Economic History Review*, New Series, 30:3, pp. 429-441. [http://www.jstor.org/cgi-](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011780/01p0051e/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)

[bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011780/01p0051e/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011780/01p0051e/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)

10. Social Consequences (week of April 1-3)

Clark, Chapter 14

Eric J. Hobsbawm (1957), "The British Standard of Living 1790-1850," *Economic History Review*, New Series, 10:1, pp. 46-68. [http://www.jstor.org/cgi-](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011713/01p01534/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)

[bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011713/01p01534/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011713/01p01534/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)

R. Max Hartwell (1961), "The Rising Standard of Living in England, 1800-1850," *Economic History Review*, New Series, 13:3, pp. 397-416.

[http://www.jstor.org/cgi-](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011724/01p0064k/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)
[bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011724/01p0064k/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011724/01p0064k/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)

11. Why Not China, India or Japan? (week of April 8-10)

Clark, Chapter 13

David Landes (1994), "What Room for Accident in History?: Explaining Big Changes by Small Events," *Economic History Review*, New Series, 47:4, pp. 637-656.

[http://www.jstor.org/cgi-](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011849/01p0366l/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)
[bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011849/01p0366l/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf](http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00130117/di011849/01p0366l/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf)

Joel Mokyr (2001), "Why Was the Industrial Revolution a European Phenomenon?" Unpublished manuscript, Departments of Economics and History and the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern University.
<http://faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/~jmokyr/Zywicki.PDF>

Kenneth Pomeranz (2000), *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction, pp. 3-27.

12. Review and Midterm (week of April 15-17)

13. Divergence and Convergence (week of April 22-24)

Clark, Chapters 15 and 16

Lant Pritchett (1987), "Divergence, Big Time," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11:3, pp. 3-17. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0895-3309%28199722%2911%3A3%3C3%3ADB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-T>
<http://uclibs.org/PID/1011>.

William Baumol (1986), "Productivity Growth, Convergence and Welfare: What the Long Run Data Show," *American Economic Review*, 76, pp. 1072-1085.
<http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00028282/di950050/95p0012e/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf>

14. Why Isn't the Whole World Developed? (week of April 29-May1)

Clark, Chapter 17

Richard A. Easterlin (1981), "Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?" *The Journal of Economic History*, 41:1, The Tasks of Economic History, pp.1-19.
<http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00220507/di975654/97p0395s/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf>

David S. Landes (1990), "Why Are We So Rich and They So Poor?" *American Economic Review*, 80:2, Papers and Proceedings of the Hundred and Second Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association, pp.1-13. <http://www.jstor.org/cgi-bin/jstor/printpage/00028282/di971046/97p0002k/0.pdf?backcontext=page&dowhat=Acrobat&config=jstor&userID=802069d4@berkeley.edu/01cc99331200501c7a25d&0.pdf>

15. Review and What It All Means (week of May 6-8)