

Econ. 623 American Economic History
George Mason University, Fall 2015
W 7:20 pm - 10:00 pm, Room: Innovation Hall 137 (after first week, Carow Hall)

Instructor: Noel D. Johnson

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Office Location: Carow 8

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 to 3:00 PM or by appointment.

Course Webpage: TBA

Course Description

In this course we will read and discuss a selection of articles about U.S. Economic History. The format of the course is thematic – I will not be teaching the narrative of U.S. history. I place a lot of emphasis on teaching you how to consume cutting-edge empirical research from economics journals. You will also be writing your own research paper. There is no required text and all of the readings are downloadable from the internet. The readings are broken down roughly as follows:

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Measurement and Causality
Weeks 3	Deep Determinants
Weeks 4	Institutions: Antecedents
Weeks 5	Institutions: Constitutions and Coordination
Weeks 6	Industrialization
Week 7	Urban Economic History
Week 8	Innovation
Week 9	Health and Disease
Week 10	The Great Depression

Week 11	Mobility and Inequality
Week 12	20 th Century Economic Growth
Week 13	Student Research Paper Presentations
Week 14	Student Research Paper Presentations

Course Requirements

Eighty percent of success is showing up – Woody Allen

- Research paper worth 40% of your final grade.
- Comprehensive final exam worth 40% of your final grade.
- Research paper presentation worth 20% of your final grade.

A Note on the Paper

The paper should attempt to test a specific hypothesis using the tools of the economic historian. Your topic can be from any time-period before 1960 ('persistence' papers are an exception). It need not be related to the economic history of the United States. The paper **should test or attempt to study a specific hypothesis using historical data**. The test need not be econometric. While it is normal to expect that an economics research paper will involve some modeling and simple regressions it is also possible to produce a good paper making clever use of tables and graphs. What is essential is that you learn how to make an argument and sustain or reject it on the basis of empirical evidence. You might seek to apply an existing model to different data or repeat a test that already exists in the literature using different time periods. The final work should be about 15-20 pages in length, double-spaced in Times Roman 12 pt. font.

To assist you in the writing and completion of the paper I'm providing some credible threats/incentives to encourage you to accomplish three distinct steps in the writing process. The first step is the writing of a preliminary proposal. The preliminary proposal describes the topic (about a paragraph or so) and provides a brief bibliography (about five sources). **At least one of these sources should be a primary source.** I also strongly encourage you to meet with me sometime before choosing your topic and writing the proposal. The preliminary proposal is due September 30 at the beginning of class. The second due date is a presentation of your research that you will make to the class sometime during the last two sessions we meet. These presentations will be 20 minutes long each and they will be graded. The final draft of the paper must be handed in at the beginning of class on December 9. I will take half a letter grade (5%) off your assignment grade if you don't hand it in when it is due. I will take an additional half a letter grade off for every 24 hour period you don't hand it in.

I strongly encourage all of you to write the paper in L^AT_EX. This is the standard among most

researchers in economics today and you might as well learn it now rather than later. Here is a source to get you started:

<http://www.maths.tcd.ie/~dwilkins/LaTeXPrimer/>

Here is another one...

<https://www.tug.org/begin.html>

And one more...

<http://faculty.gvsu.edu/ogural/LaTeX%20for%20economists.pdf>

A Note on Exams

The final will be administered on Wednesday 16 December from 7:30 pm to 10:15 pm and is comprehensive. You are required to take the final, failure to do so will result in an F for the course. The final exam will only be rescheduled for a University condoned reason and I will ask for a note from your doctor (and will call said to doctor to confirm the note) if this is your excuse.

The exams will consist of a mix of short definitions and essay questions. These questions will focus on the readings that we discussed in class as well as my lecture on these readings.

A Note on Presentations

Twenty percent of your course grade is determined by your paper presentation.

I encourage the use of slides for your presentation, but try not to over-do it. If you have questions on what is over-doing it, please refer to this book:

E.R. Tufte. *The visual display of quantitative information*. Graphics Press, 1983

I will grade your presentations on ‘content’ (how well you have framed and answered your research question) and ‘style’ (how well you present the material).

Recommended Texts

There are no required texts for this class that must be purchased. Most of the readings can be downloaded from either JSTOR, the NBER Working Papers archive, EconLit, or the course webpage. You are required to acquire these papers and read them before the week they are listed on the syllabus. You are expected to know the papers on the course reading list for the exams. I also include a list of readings from previous iterations of this course. These are optional, though if you plan on taking the Economic History Field Exam, you should familiarize yourself with them.

In addition to the papers listed below, you may wish to purchase a general text on U.S. economic history. Good choices would be:

Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell. *A New Economic View of American History*, (Norton: New York, 1994).

Jonathan Hughes and Louis Cain. *American Economic History*, (Addison Wesley: 2006).

Also, some of the articles require knowledge of econometric techniques. I will attempt to explain the methods used when they come up, however, this is not an econometrics class and you may wish to have a more detailed treatment of the methods at your disposal. It is a fact of the economist's life that empirical methods are very, very, important. Even if you don't plan on using econometrics for your dissertation or in your own research or work, you will look like a fool (and will often be treated like one) if you don't understand the basics. Two excellent sources for the basics (plus some more advanced material) are:

Peter Kennedy, *A Guide to Econometrics*, (Wiley-Blackwell: 2008).

Joshua Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke, *Mastering Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect*. (Princeton University Press, 2014).

If you plan on using stata to do some econometrics and you want a thorough conceptual guide to that, check out Shapiro's and Gentzkow's guide to 'Code and Data' which I have placed in the folder of downloadable readings on the course webpage.

A good place to get advice on how to write a paper is, D.N. McCloskey. *Economical Writing*. Waveland Press, Incorporated, 2000

Or, you could take a look at the material on my webpage here: <http://goo.gl/LBkws1>

I also highly recommend this book:

William Thomson, *A Guide for the Young Economist*. (MIT Press: 2011).

Also, take a look at John Cochrane's 'Writing Tips for Ph.D. Students' which I have placed in the folder of downloadable readings on the course webpage.

Some Important Dates

First Day of Classes: 8/31

Labor Day Recess: 9/7

Columbus Day Recess: 10/12

Thanksgiving Recess: 11/25 - 11/29

Last Day of Classes: 12/12

Final Exam: Wednesday 16 December from 7:30 pm to 10:15 pm

PLEASE NOTE: COURSE POLICIES

1. George Mason University Honor System and Code

Honor Code

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited.

All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Plagiarism (statements from Mason Web Site)

Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit.

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm#plagiarism>

Please familiarize yourself with the Honor System and Code, as stated in the George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog. When you are given an assignment as an individual, the work must be your own. Some of your work may be collaborative; source material for group projects and work of individual group members must be carefully documented for individual contributions.

<http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm>

2. Class Registration

Students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their own schedules. Students need to check PatriotWeb regularly to verify that they are registered for the classes that they think they are. This is particularly important since students are no longer dropped for nonpayment. Faculty may not allow a student who is not registered to continue to attend class and may not grade the work of students who do not appear on the official class roster.

Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Web Site registrar.gmu.edu

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

3. Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

The need for accommodations should be identified at the beginning of the semester and the specific accommodation has to be arranged through the Office of Disability Resources. Faculty cannot provide accommodations to students on their own (e.g. allowing a student extra time to complete an exam because the student reports having a disability).

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction

Jeremy Atack and Peter Passell. Chapter 1, “American Economic Growth: A Long-Run Perspective,” in *A New Economic View of American History*, WW. Norton, any edition.

Romer, Paul. “Why, Indeed, in America? Theory, History, and the Origins of Modern Economic Growth.” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 86, No. 2 (May 1996).

Peptalk on research from David Weil

Week 2: Measurement and Causality

Pages 291 to 300 of David Freedman. Statistical models and shoe leather. *Mathematical Social Sciences*, 18(2):192–192, October 1989

Martin Ravallion. 2001. “The Mystery of the Vanishing Benefits: An Introduction to Impact Evaluation.” *World Bank Economic Review*. 15 (1).

Bellemare, “A Primer on Linear Regression”

Bellemare, “A Primer on Causality”

Week 3: Deep Determinants

Daron Acemoglu; Simon Johnson; James A. Robinson, “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation.” *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5. (Dec., 2001), pp. 1369-1401.

Kenneth Sokoloff and Stanley Engerman. 2000. “Institutions, Factor Endowments, Inequality, and Paths to Development in the New World.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14 (3).

Melissa Dell. The persistent effects of peru’s mining mita. *Econometrica*, 78(6):1863–1903, 2010

Week 4: Institutions: Antecedents

Steven C. A. Pincus and James A. Robinson. 2011. “What Really Happened During the Glorious Revolution?” NBER Working Paper 17206.

Douglass C. North and Barry R. Weingast, “Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England,” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 49, No. 4 (December 1989), pp. 803-32.

Naomi R. Lamoreaux. The mystery of property rights: A U.S. perspective. *The Journal of Economic History*, 71:275–306, 5 2011

Week 5: Institutions: Constitutions and Coordination

Federalist No. 10. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. *The Federalist Papers*. Any edition, any publisher.

The United States Constitution

Barry R. Weingast, “The Economic Role of Political Institutions: Market-Preserving Federalism and Economic Development,” *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (April 1995), pp. 1-31.

Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis. *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, chapter Cooperation. MacMillan, 2008

Scott Aaronson, ‘Shtetl Optimized’

David Hackett Fischer. 1989. “Conclusion: Four British Folkways in American History: The Origin and Persistence of Regional Cultures in the United States,” in *Albions Seed: Four British Folkways in America*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. pp 783-898.

Robert A. McGuire and Robert L. Ohsfeldt, “An Economic Model of Voting Behavior over Specific Issues at the Constitutional Convention of 1787,” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 46, No. 1 (March 1986), pp. 79-111.

Michael Stokes Paulsen, “The Irrepressible Myth of Marbury,” *Michigan Law Review*, Vol. 101, No. 8 (August, 2003), pp. 2706-2743.

Week 6: Industrialization

Peter Temin. 1996. ‘Two Views of the British Industrial Revolution’. NBER Historical Paper 81.

Peter Temin. 1991. “Free Land and Federalism: A Synoptic View of American Economic History,” *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 21 (3).

Gregory Clark. 1987. ‘Why Isn’t the Whole World Developed? Lessons from the Cotton Mills,’ *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 47, No. 1.

Dave Donaldson and Richard Hornbeck. Railroads and American economic growth: A “market access” approach. March 2012

Week 7: Urban Economic History

Hoyt Bleakley and Jeffrey Lin. Portage and path dependence. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 127:587–644., 2012

Donald Davis and David Weinstein, ‘Bones, Bombs, and Break Points: The Geography of Economic Activity’, *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 92, No. 5 (December 2002).

Richard Hornbeck and Daniel Keniston, ‘Creative Destruction: Barriers to Urban Growth and the Great Boston Fire of 1872’, Working Paper, December 2014.

William Easterly, Laura Freschi, and Steven Pennings, ‘A Long History of a Short Block: Four Centuries of Development Surprises on a Single Stretch of a New York City Street’, Working Paper, January 2015.

Week 8: Innovation

S.J. Liebowitz and Stephen Margolis, "The Fable of the Keys," *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (April 1990), pp. 1-25.

Douglas J. Puffert, "The Standardization of Track Gauge on North American Railways, 1830-1890," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 60, No. 4 (December 2000), pp. 933-60.

Richard Hornbeck. 2010. "Barbed Wire: Property Rights and Agricultural Development," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. May.

Peter Thompson. 2001. How Much Did the Liberty Shipbuilders Learn? New Evidence for an Old Case Study. *Journal of Political Economy*, 109 (February): 1031-37.

Week 9: Health and Disease

Garrett Hardin. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, 162:1243-1248. 10

Hoyt Bleakley. 2007. Disease and Development: Evidence from Hookworm Eradication in the American South. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122 (February): 73-117.

Douglas Almond, "Is the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Over? Long-Term Effects of In Utero Influenza Exposure in the Post-1940 U.S. Population," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 114, No. 4 (December 2006), pp. 672-713.

Week 10: The Great Depression

Price V. Fishback. 2010. "U.S. Monetary and Fiscal Policy in the 1930s," NBER Working Paper No. 16477.

Christina D. Romer. 1990. The Great Crash and the Onset of the Great Depression. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 105 (August): 597-624.

Gary Richardson and William Troost. 2009. Monetary Intervention Mitigated Banking Panics during the Great Depression: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from a Federal Reserve District Border, 1929-1933. *Journal of Political Economy* 117 (December): 1031-1073.

Week 11: Mobility and Inequality

Ran Abramitzky, Leah Platt Boustan, and Katherine Eriksson. 2014. A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration. *Journal of Political Economy* 122 (June): 467-506.

Jason Long and Joseph Ferrie. 'Grandfathers Matter(ed): Occupational Mobility Across Three Generations in the U.S. and Britain, 1850-1910', Working Paper Summer 2015.

Week 12: 20th Century Economic Growth

Robert J. Gordon. 2014. The Demise of U.S. Economic Growth: Restatement, Rebuttal, and Reflections. NBER Working Paper No. 19895 (February).

James A. Schmitz Jr. 2005. What Determines Productivity? Lessons from the Dramatic Recovery of the U.S. and Canadian Iron Ore Industries Following Their Early 1980s Crisis. *Journal of Political Economy* 113 (June): 582-625.

Week 13: Student Research Paper Presentations

Week 14: Student Research Paper Presentations

The Comprehensive Final Exam will be on Wednesday 16 December from 7:30 pm to 10:15 pm

Readings from Previous Semesters

McCloskey, Donald. "Economics as an historical science" in William Parker ed., *Economic History and the Modern Economist*.

Douglass North, John Wallis, and Barry Weingast. "A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History," NBER Working Paper No. 12795.

North, Douglass C. "Economic Performance Through Time." *American Economic Review*, Vol. 84, No. 3 (Jun. 1994).

Jones, Charles. "The Facts of Economic Growth", NBER Working Paper 21142 (May 2015).

Benjamin F. Jones and Benjamin A. Olken. Hit or miss? the effect of assassinations on institutions and war. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 1(2):55–87, 2009

Randall Morck and Bernard Yeung. Economics, history, and causation. *Business History Review*, 85:39–63, Spring 2011

Nathan Nunn. 2007. "Slavery, Inequality, and Economic Development in the Americas: An Examination of the Engerman-Sokoloff Hypothesis." MPRA Working Paper 5869.

James Mitchener and Ian Mclean, "The Productivity of U.S. States Since 1880." *Journal of Economic Growth*, Vol. 8 (2003).

Quamrul Ashraf and Oded Galor. The "Out of Africa" hypothesis, human genetic diversity, and comparative economic development. *American Economic Review*, 103(1):1–46, 2013

Edward Glaeser, Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-De-Silanes, Andrei Shleifer, "Do Institutions Cause Growth?" *Journal of Economic Growth*, Vol. 9 (2004).

Rafael La Porta, Florencio Lopez-de-Silanes, Andrei Shleifer, and Robert Vishny. 1998. "Law and Finance." *Journal of Political Economy*. 106 (6).

Robert Hall and Charles Jones (1999) "Why Do Some Countries Produce So Much More Output Per Worker Than Others?" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, (February).

Rothenberg, Winifred B. "The Emergence of Farm Labor Markets and the Transformation of the Rural Economy: Massachusetts, 1750-1855," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 48, No. 3 (September 1988), pp. 537-66.

David Stasavage. 2002. "Credible Commitment in Early Modern Europe: North and Weingast Revisited," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. 18 (1).

John Wells and Douglas Wills, "Revolution, Restoration, and Debt Repudiation: The Jacobite Threat to Englands Institutions and Economic Growth," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (June 2000), pp. 418-41.

Carruthers, Bruce C., "Politics, Popery, and Property: A Comment on North and Weingast," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (September 1990), pp. 693-98.

Gregory Clark, "The Political Foundations of Modern Economic Growth: England, 1540- 1800," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 26, No. 4 (December 1996), pp. 563-88.

Daniel Bogart and Gary Richardson. 2006. "Parliament, Property Rights, and Public Goods in England: 1600 to 1815," Working Paper.

Naomi R. Lamoreaux, "Rethinking the Transition to Capitalism in the Early American Northeast," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 90, No. 2 (September 2003), pp. 437-61.

Herbert Gintis. Social norms as choreography. *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*, 9(3):251–264, 2010

Herbert Gintis. Hayek's contribution to a reconstruction of economic theory. January 2011

Carol Shiue and Wolfgang Keller. 2007. "Markets in China and Europe on the Eve of the Industrial Revolution." *The American Economic Review*. 97 (4).

Albert O. Hirschman. 1997. *The Passions and the Interests*. Princeton University Press, Princeton.

Victoria N. Bateman. 2011. "The Evolution of Markets in Early Modern Europe, 1350-1800: A Study of Wheat Prices," *The Economic History Review*. 64 (2).

Noel D Johnson and Mark Koyama. Taxes, lawyers, and the decline of witch trials in France. *Journal of Law & Economics*, 2014

Mark Dincecco. 2009. "Fiscal Centralization, Limited Government, and Public Revenues in Europe, 1650-1913," *Journal of Economic History*. 69 (1).

Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama. Tax farming and the origins of state capacity in England and France. *Explorations in Economic History*, 51:1–20 (*Lead Article*), January 2014

Joel Mokyr and Hans-Joachim Voth. 2006. "Understanding Growth in Europe, 1700-1870: Theory and Evidence," Working Paper.

Valerie Bockstette, Areendam Chanda, and Louis Putterman. 2002. "States and Markets: The Advantage of an Early Start," *Journal of Economic Growth*. 7.

John Joseph Wallis, "Constitutions, Corporations, and Corruption: American States and Constitutional Change, 1842-1852." *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 65, No. 1 (March 2005).

Torsten Persson, "Consequences of Constitutions." National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2003. Cambridge, MA. Working Paper 10170.

Richard A. Epstein, "Takings: Descent and Resurrection," *The Supreme Court Review*, 1987, pp. 1-45.

Alfred Chandler and Takashi Hikino. 1990. "Chapter 2: Scale, Scope, and Organizational Capabilities," in *Scale and Scope: The Dynamics of Industrial Capitalism*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

Kenneth L. Sokoloff. Was the transition from the artisanal shop to the nonmechanized factory associated with gains in efficiency?: Evidence from the U.S. manufacturing censuses of 1820 and 1850. *Explorations in Economic History*, 21:351–382, 1984

Claudia Goldin and Kenneth Sokoloff. 1984. "The Relative Productivity Hypothesis of Industrialization: The American Case, 1820 to 1850," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 99 (3).

Gavin Wright, "The Origins of American Industrial Success," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 80, No. 4 (September 1990), pp. 651-68.

Alexander J. Field, "The Equipment Hypothesis and U.S. Economic Growth," *Explorations in Economic History*, 44 (2007), pp. 43-58.

Naomi R. Lamoreaux and Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, "Legal Regime and Contractual Flexibility: A Comparison of Business Organizational Choices in France and the United States during the Era of Industrialization." *American Law and Economics Review*. Vol. 7, No. 1 (2005).

Peter L. Rousseau and Richard Sylla. "Emerging Financial Markets and Early U.S. Growth," *Explorations in Economic History*, Vol. 42 (2005), pp. 1-26.

Jeremy Atack, "Firm Size and Industrial Structure in the United States During the Nineteenth Century." *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (June 1986), pp. 463-75.

Douglas A. Irwin, "Did Late-Nineteenth Century U.S. Tariffs Promote Infant Industries? Evidence from the Tinplate Industry," *Journal of Economic History*, 60(2000): 335-60.

Stanley Lebergott, "The Returns to U.S. Imperialism, 1890-1929," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 40, No. 2. (June 1980), pp. 229-252.

Roger Ransom. "The Economics of the Civil War." Download from Eh.net: <http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/ransom.civil.war.us>

Sacerdote, Bruce. 2005. "Slavery and the Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital." *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Lee J. Alston and Joseph P. Ferrie, "Paternalism in Agricultural Labor Contracts in the U.S. South: Implications for the Growth of the Welfare State." *American Economic Review*, Vol. 83, No. 4 (September 1993), pp. 852-76.

Costa, Dora L., and Matthew E. Kahn. "Cowards and Heroes: Group Loyalty in the American Civil War." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 118, no. 2 (May 2003): 519-48.

John J. Donohue III and James Heckman. 1991. "Continuous Versus Episodic Change: The Impact of Civil Rights Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks," *Journal of Economic Literature*. Vol. 29, December.

Heckman, James J and Brook S. Payner. "Determining the Impact of Federal Anti-discrimination Policy on the Economic Status of Blacks: A Study of South Carolina." *American Economic Review* 79 (March 1989): 138-77.

Steckel, Richard H. "A Peculiar Population: The Nutrition, Health, and Mortality of American Slaves from Childhood to Maturity." *Journal of Economic History* 46 (1986): 721-41.

Claudia D. Goldin and Frank D. Lewis, "The Economic Cost of the American Civil War: Estimates and Implications," *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Jun., 1975), pp. 299-326.

W. Walker Hanlon. Necessity is the mother of invention: Input supplies and directed technical change. May 2013

Alan L. Olmstead and Paul Rhode, "Beyond the Threshold: An Analysis of the Characteristics and Behavior of Early Reaper Adoption," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 55, No. 1 (March 1995), pp. 27-57.

Petra Moser, "How Do Patent Laws Influence Innovation? Evidence From Nineteenth-Century World Fairs," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 95, No. 4 (September 2005), pp. 1214-36. (Also available as NBER working paper.)

North, Douglass C., "Sources of Productivity Change in Ocean Shipping, 1600-1850," *The Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 76, No. 5 (Sep.-Oct., 1968), pp. 953-970.

Petra Moser and Tom Nichols, "Was Electricity a General Purpose Technology? Evidence From Historical Patent Citations," *American Economic Review (Papers & Proceedings)*, Vol. 94, No. 2 (May 2004), pp. 388-94.

Michael Kremer, "Population Growth and Technological Change: One Million B.C. to 1990," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 108, No. 3 (August 1993), pp. 681-716.

David Y. Albouy (2010) "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Investigation of the Settler Mortality Data." NBER Working Paper w14130.

Robert McGuire. "Economic Interests and the Adoption of the United States Constitution," <http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/mcguire.constitution.us.economic.interests>

Joseph P. Ferrie and Werner Troesken. Water and Chicago's mortality transition, 1850-1925. *Explorations in Economic History*, 45:1-16, 2008

Michael R Haines, Lee A. Craig, and Thomas Weiss, "The Short and the Dead: Nutrition, Mortality, and the Antebellum Puzzle in the United States," *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 63, No. 2 (June 2003), pp. 382-414.

David Cutler and Grant Miller. 2005. "Water, Water Everywhere: Municipal Finance and Water Supply in American Cities," NBER Working Paper No. 11096.

Zeynep K. Hansen and Gary D. Libecap. 2004. "Small Farms, Externalities, and the Dust Bowl of the 1930s," *Journal of Political Economy*, 112:665-94.

Taylor, M. Scott. "Buffalo Hunt: International Trade and the Virtual Extinction of the North American Bison." National Bureau of Economic Research, March 2007. Cambridge, MA. Working Paper 12969.

Hoyt Bleakley and Joseph Ferrie. Up from poverty? the 1832 Cherokee land lottery and the long-run distribution of wealth. June 2013

Robert Higgs. Crisis, bigger government, and ideological change: Two hypotheses on the ratchet phenomenon. *Explorations in Economic History*, 22(1):1-28, January 1985

Chapter 1 in William J. Novack. *The People's Welfare: Law and Regulation in Nineteenth Century America*. UNC Press, Chapel Hill, 1996

Douglass C. North and John Joseph Wallis. American government expenditures: A historical

perspective. *The American Economic Review*, 72(2):336–340, 1982

Samuel Bowles. Policies designed for self-interested citizens may undermine the moral sentiments. *Science*, 320:1605–1609, June 2008

Randall G. Holcombe and Donald J. Lacombe. The growth of local government in the United States from 1820 to 1870. *The Journal of Economic History*, 61(1), March 2001

Christina D. Romer, “What Ended the Great Depression?” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (December 1992), pp. 757-784.

Price Fishback, William C. Horrace, and Shawn Kantor. “Did New Deal Grant Programs Stimulate Local Economies? A Study of Federal Grants and Retail Sales during the Great Depression,” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 65, No. 1 (March 2005), pp. 36-71.

Bernanke, Ben. “The Macroeconomics of the Great Depression: A Comparative Approach.” *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking* 27 (1995): 1-28.

Price Fishback and Joseph Cullen, “Did Big Governments Largess Help the Locals? The Implications of WWII Spending for Local Economic Activity, 1939-1958,” NBER Working Paper 12801.

Christina D. Romer, “The Nation in Depression,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring 1993), pp. 19-39.

Douglas A. Irwin. 2010. “Did France Cause the Great Depression?” Working Paper.

Bernanke, Ben. “Nonmonetary Effects of the Financial Crisis in the Propagation of the Great Depression.” *American Economic Review* 73 (June 1983): 257-76.

Martha Olney, “Avoiding Default: The Role of Credit in the Consumption Collapse of 1930,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (February 1999)

Calomiris, Charles W. “Is Deposit Insurance Necessary?” *Journal of Economic History* 50 (June 1990): 283-95.

Robert Higgs, “Wartime Prosperity? A Reassessment of the U.S. Economy in the 1940s,” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (March 1992), pp. 41-60.

Price Fishback, Michael Haines, and Shawn Kantor. 2005. “Births, Deaths and New Deal Relief During the Great Depression,” NBER Working Paper 11246.

Joseph Ferrie. 2005. “The End of American Exceptionalism? Mobility in the United States Since 1850,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 19 (3).

Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez. 2003. “Income Inequality in the United States, 1913-1998,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 118 (1).

Claudia Goldin. A grand gender convergence: Its last chapter. In *American Economic Association Presidential Address*, January 2014

Costa, Dora L. “The Wage and the Length of the Work Day: From the 1890s to 1991.” *Journal of Labor Economics* 18 (January 2000): 156-181.

Goldin, Claudia, and Robert A. Margo. "The Great Compression: The U.S. Wage Structure at Mid-Century." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 107, no. 1 (February 1992): 1-34.

Goldin, Claudia, and Lawrence F. Katz. "Decreasing (and Then Increasing) Inequality in America." Chapter 2 in *The Causes and Consequences of Increasing Inequality*. Edited by Finis Welch. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2001, pp. 37-82. ISBN: 9780226893013.