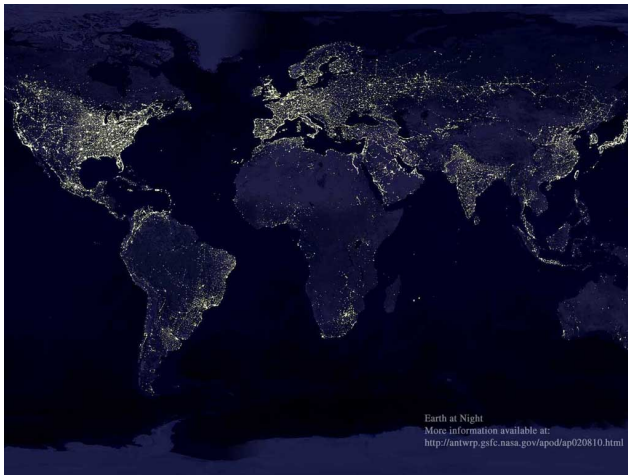


Econ 342 - Global Economic History



The basics:

- Office: 254 Morton Hall
- Email: jmparman@wm.edu (expect response in under 24 hours)
- Phone: 757-221-2852 (email is probably easier)
- Office hours: Tue 2pm-3pm, Wed 1pm-2pm, Thu 10am-noon

- We will have a course website on blackboard.wm.edu
- Right now you can find the syllabus, these lecture slides, past exams and two folders for readings on the website (all under 'Course Files')
- Lecture slides will typically be posted half an hour before lecture

Course Prerequisites

Students should have completed Econ 101 and Econ 102. These courses provide students with a basic understanding of economic concepts that will serve as the foundation for the material in this course. I will assume a basic economic vocabulary.

- There is no required textbook for the course.
- Readings, both required and non-required, are posted on Blackboard. I will maintain a reading list on Blackboard noting which readings are required.
- I will update you at the start of each lecture on where we are in the course outline and which readings you should do for the next classes.

- Final grades will be based on two referee reports (20% each), an empirical project (20%), a midterm (20%) and a final (20%).
- The overall course grades will be curved to be consistent with the typical William & Mary grade distribution.
- Students will have one week after graded material is first returned to raise any issues about grading. After that the recorded grades are final.
- There are no makeup exams or options to take an exam at an alternate time. If the midterm is missed for any reason the final exam will be used to impute a grade for the midterm.
- Late assignments are accepted but there are grade deductions for being late.

Referee Reports

- You will complete two referee reports, due February 16th and March 30th at 5pm.
- The referee reports are a chance to engage critically with the assigned journal articles.
- You will summarize the main points of the article and then discuss its strengths and weaknesses.
- We'll go over all of the details in lecture.

Empirical Project

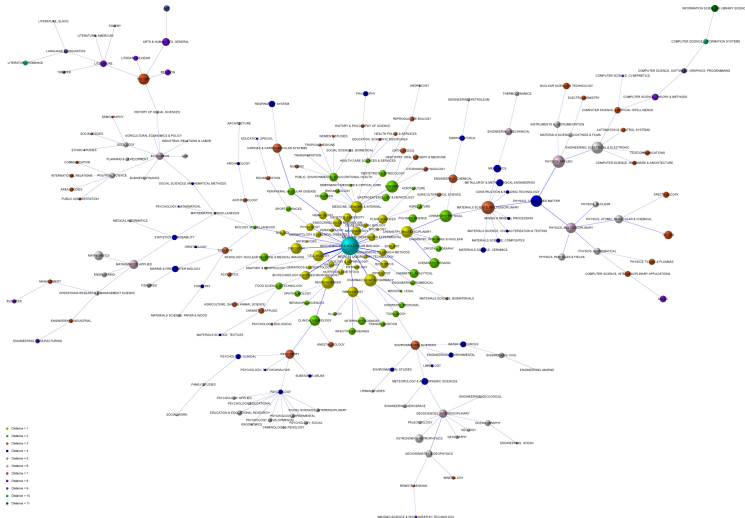
- The empirical project will be due April 20th by 5pm.
- The project will involve finding different types of empirical evidence ranging from standard economic data to evidence from historical literary works.
- The goal is to create a cohesive argument about changes in economic activity over time on the basis of that evidence.
- A second goal is to fulfill the spirit of the COLL 200 designation for the class.
- We will go over details in the lecture after our midterm.

Key dates for the semester:

- February 16: first referee report due at 5pm
- February 28: midterm (in class)
- March 30: second referee report due at 5pm
- April 20: empirical project due at 5pm
- May 8, 2pm-3:30pm: final exam

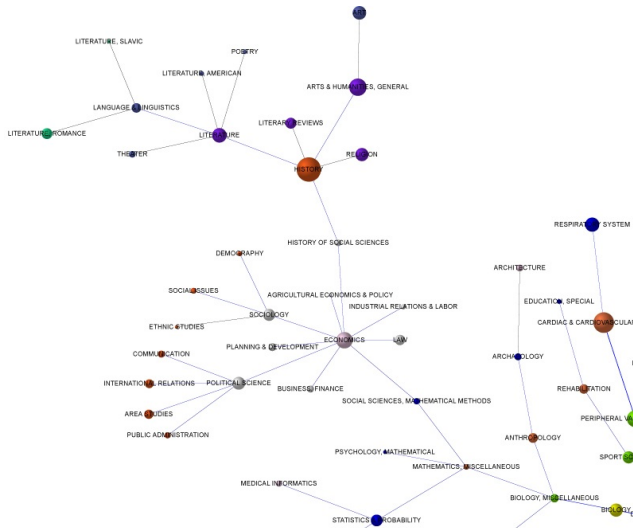
Note that the final exam will be an hour and a half long.

The Position of Economic History in Academia



From Moya-Anegón, et al "Visualizing the marrow of science." Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Vol. 58, No. 14 (2007)

The Position of Economic History in Academia



From Moya-Anegón, et al "Visualizing the marrow of science." Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, Vol. 58, No. 14 (2007)

The Rise of Cliometrics



The Rise of Cliometrics

“The finest historians will not be those who succumb to the dehumanizing methods of social sciences, whatever their uses and values, which I hasten to acknowledge. Nor will the historian worship at the shrine of...QUANTIFICATION.”
– Carl Bridenbaugh, president of the American Historical Society, 1962

The Rise of Cliometrics

What do economic historians hope to contribute to history?

- Utilize economic modeling to interpret historical phenomena
- Bring an economist's sense of quantification to historical data
- Employ statistical methods to systematically and rigorously test hypothesis
- Combine these tools to extrapolate from history, expand the applicability of history

Using Economics to Study History



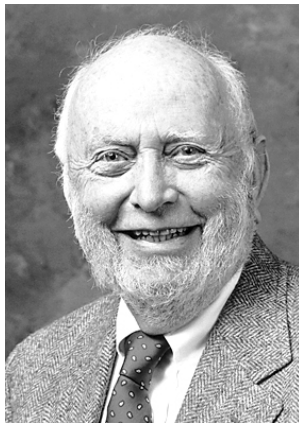
*Photograph of Robert Fogel,
retrieved from http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laureates/1993/fogel.html*

The Rise of Cliometrics

What do economic historians hope to contribute to economics?

- Historical events as tests of hypotheses
- Historical data as a source of compelling stylized facts
- A wealth of comparative analysis possibilities (with much larger heterogeneity than modern data)
- Context for decision making
- The relevance of social norms and other institutions
- The evolution of those institutions

The Rise of Cliometrics

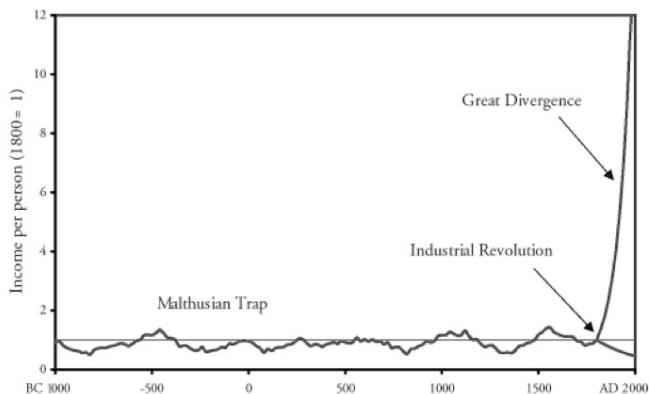


*Photograph of Douglass North,
retrieved from http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laureates/1993/north.html*

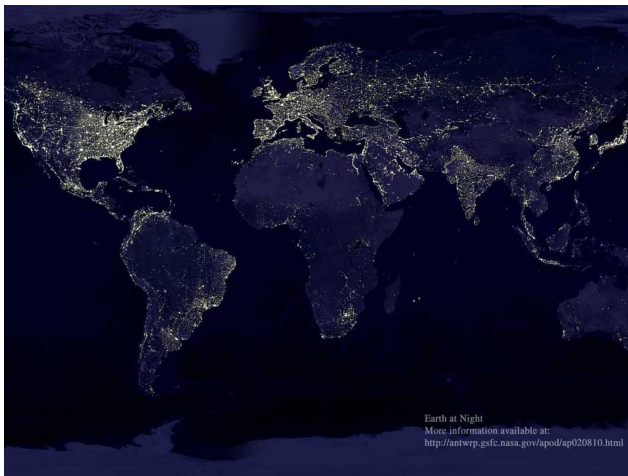
So What is Good Economic History?

- Having a well-defined question
- Defining variables and the general problem operationally
- Being clear about what data are available, what they can measure and what they can't measure
- Being explicit about assumptions
- Deriving testable statements
- Carefully interpreting results
- Considering the proper counterfactual
- Not forgetting that 'history matters'

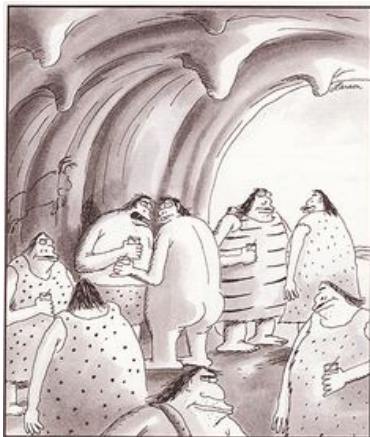
What We're Actually Going to Study



What We're Actually Going to Study



The Pre-Industrial Economy

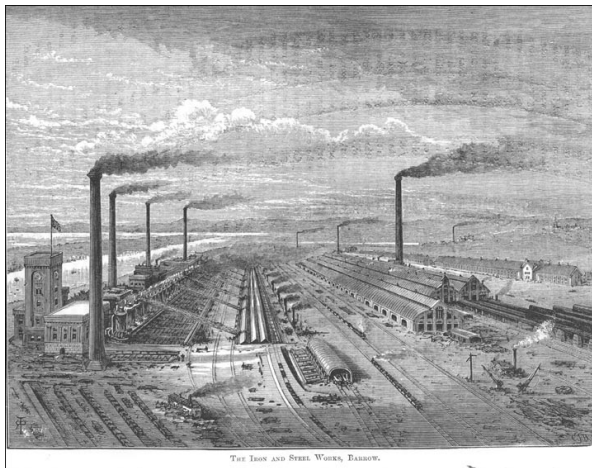


"A word of advice, Durk: It's the Mesolithic. We've domesticated the dog, we're using stone tools, and no one's naked anymore."

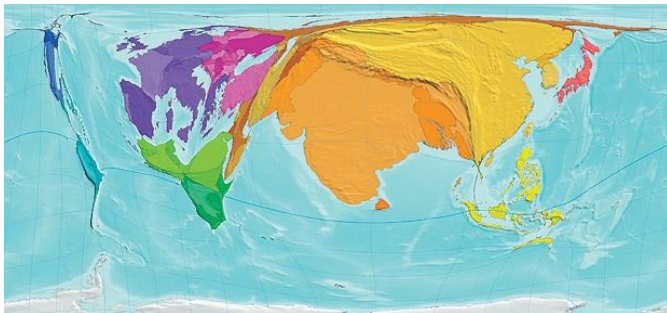
The Pre-Industrial Economy



The Industrial Revolution



The Why and Where of the Industrial Revolution



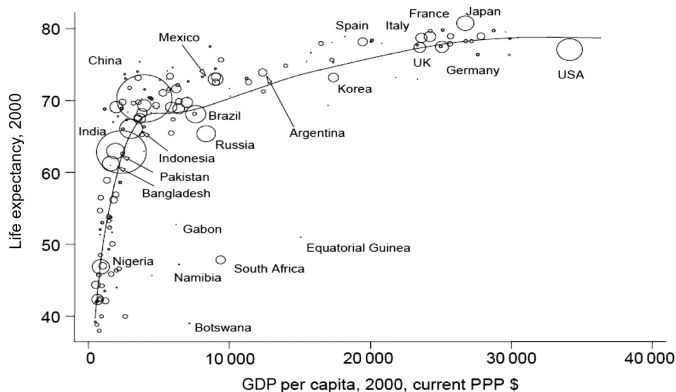
Country areas weighted by GDP, 1 AD

The Why and Where of the Industrial Revolution



Country areas weighted by GDP, 1900 AD

The Mixed Benefits of Industrialization

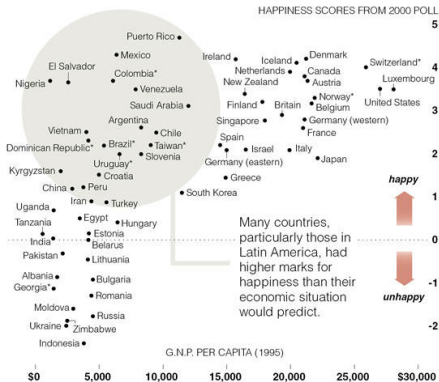


The Mixed Benefits of Industrialization

A Plateau of Happiness

A country's wealth may not always dictate the happiness of its people.

As part of the World Values Survey project, inhabitants of different countries and territories were asked how happy or satisfied they were. Below is a sampling of happiness rankings, along with economic status.



*Poll results for these countries were from 1995.

Source: Ronald Inglehart, "Human Beliefs and Values: A Cross-Cultural Sourcebook Based on the 1999-2002 Values Surveys"