

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester I, 1990-91

History 571

Prof. Dunlavy

NINETEENTH-CENTURY INDUSTRIALIZATION
Comparing the United States and Germany

This is a research (rather than a reading) seminar in comparative industrial history. Over the course of the semester, we will explore various facets of the process of industrialization as it unfolded in the United States and Germany during the 19th century. In other words, you will certainly learn more about American and German industrialization, but you should not expect the broad overview that typifies a survey. Instead, the seminar proceeds via a topical format and is designed, above all, to give you a rigorous theoretical and practical introduction to comparative history. Thus you may expect to improve not only your research and writing skills but also your analytical skills. It should be an intensive, challenging experience--and a rewarding one as well.

Course Requirements

1. ***Attendance and Participation.*** When a small group meets weekly for two hours of discussion, as we will in this seminar, faithful attendance is absolutely essential. Regular and thoughtful participation in the discussions is, too, so be sure to take the time before the seminar to think about issues that you would like to discuss.
2. ***Readings.*** Over the course of the semester, the workload shifts from assigned readings to your own research. During the first few weeks of class, therefore, the reading assignments are heaviest; then they taper off as you get deeper into your own research; there are no assigned readings during the last two weeks when you will each be working on your final drafts and will be talking briefly in seminar about your work (see below for details). All readings are in English, and they should be read in the order given on the syllabus. If you would like to do some background reading, see the appropriate handout.
3. ***Seminar Discussions.*** As a rule, the seminar discussion will focus on assigned readings. It is thus imperative that you come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. In order to make this as much of a collective effort as possible, however, I will circulate a list of the paper topics that the students have chosen so that you will know what others are working on. We will also use a portion of almost every weekly session to discuss research problems and progress. During the last two weeks of the semester, each student will present a 15-minute, informal overview of their research.

- 4. **Research Papers.** All papers: a) must be comparative and b) should deal with some aspect of industrial history, very broadly defined. The first point is non-negotiable; the second is such a loose constraint that no negotiation should be necessary--it is difficult to think of any 19th-century topic that was not in some way related to the industrial changes underway at the time. Since a reading knowledge of German is not required, your research on the German side of the comparison will typically rely on English-language secondary literature or on primary materials that have been published in translation. For the American research, I will strongly encourage you, where appropriate, to dig into the primary resources, since there is nothing quite like getting your hands dirty. Your paper will go through four incarnations (see below for the schedule): 1) seminar and individual discussions of prospective topics with me; 2) prospectus including bibliography; 3) draft (the best that you can do up to that point--not a rough draft); 4) revised, final paper.
- 4. **Grades.** Prospectus = 25%, paper draft = 30%, final paper = 30%, and seminar participation = 15%.

Required Reading

- 1. The following books should be purchased, since you will need to consult them frequently throughout the semester as you work on your papers. They are available at the University Bookstore:

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Terms Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (any edition).

Francis Paul Prucha, *Handbook for Research in American History: A Guide to Bibliographies and Other Reference Works* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987).

Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, 3d. or later edition.

- 2. Most of the seminar readings are contained in a reader that is available for purchase at Bob's Copy Shop (56 University Square).

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Prof. Dunlavy's office: 4116 Humanities
 Office Hours
 Mondays, 2:15-3:45 p.m.
 Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.
 or by appointment
 (263-1854)

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SEMINAR TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

SEPTEMBER 6. Overview, Mechanics, etc.

SEPTEMBER 13. Introduction: A Sampling of Historiography and Comparative History. Also, preliminary discussion of paper topics.

Reading Assignment

Carl N. Degler, "In Pursuit of an American History," *American Historical Review* 92 (February 1987): 1-12.

Raymond Grew, "The Comparative Weakness of American History," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 16 (Summer 1985): 87-101.

Jürgen Kocka, "German History before Hitler: The Debate about the German *Sonderweg*," *Journal of Contemporary History* 23 (1988): 3-16.

Shearer Davis Bowman, "Antebellum Planters and Vormärz Junkers in Comparative Perspective," *American Historical Review* 85 (1980): 779-808.

Colleen A. Dunlavy, "Mirror Images: Political Structure and Early Railroad Policy in the United States and Prussia," *Studies in American Political Development* (forthcoming, November 1990), manuscript version.

SEPTEMBER 20. Meeting with Historical Society staff (circulation desk, 2:30), followed by seminar discussion of comparative methodology: What makes "good" comparative history good? (ca. 3:30-4:30) Come prepared to relate last week's readings to those assigned this week.

Reading Assignment

Barzun and Graff, *The Modern Researcher*, Preface and Chapters 1-4.

Marc Bloch, "Toward a Comparative History of European Societies," in Frederick C. Lane and Jelle C. Riermersma, eds., *Enterprise and Secular Change: Readings in Economic History* (Homewood, Ill.: Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 1953), pp. 494-521.

September 20, Reading - cont'd.

William H. Sewell, "Marc Bloch and the Logic of Comparative History," *History and Theory* 6 (1967): 208-218.

Theda Skocpol and Margaret Somers, "The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 22 (April 1980): 174-197.

SEPTEMBER 27. Meeting with Memorial Library staff (2:30 p.m., place to be arranged), followed by seminar discussion: comparative methodology, cont'd., and writing a research paper

Reading Assignment

Barzun and Graff, *The Modern Researcher* (complete)

OCTOBER 4. Comparative Business and Economic History.

Reading Assignment

Alfred D. Chandler, *Scale and Scope: The Dynamics of Industrial Capitalism* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Belknap Press, 1990), pp. 1-13, 47-89, 393-427.

~~Richard~~ ^{ROBERT C.} Allen, "International Competition in Iron and Steel, 1850-1913," *Journal of Economic History* 39 (December 1979): 911-37.

Rainer Fremdling, "Railroads and German Economic Growth: A Leading Sector Analysis with a Comparison to the United States and Great Britain," *Journal of Economic History* 37 (September 1977): 583-604.

*** Individual meetings with instructor between Oct. 4 and Oct. 11**

OCTOBER 11. Comparative Social History.

Reading Assignment

Ann Taylor Allen, "'Let Us Live with Our Children': Kindergarten Movements in Germany and the United States, 1840-1914," *History of Education Quarterly* 28 (1988): 23-48.

Tom Taylor, "The Transition to Adulthood in Comparative Perspective: Professional Males in Germany and the United States at the Turn of the Century," *Journal of Social History* 21 (1987-88): 635-58.

October 11, Reading - cont'd.

Jürgen Kocka, *White Collar Workers in America, 1890-1940: A Social-Political History in International Perspective*, trans. Maura Kealey, SAGE Studies in 20th Century History, Vol. 10 (London and Beverly Hills: SAGE Publications, 1980), pp. 1-91, 251-367.

OCTOBER 18. No class. * * Prospectus due * *

(no reading assignment)

OCTOBER 25. Comparative Political History. (Prospectus returned).

Reading Assignment

David Peal, "The Politics of Populism: Germany and the American South in the 1890s," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31 (April 1989): 340-62.

Peter Lundgreen, "Measures for Objectivity in the Public Interest: The Role of Scientific Expertise in the Politics of Technical Regulation: Germany and the U.S., 1865-1916," in idem, *Standardization, Testing, and Regulation: Studies in the History of the Science-based Regulatory State (Germany and the U.S.A., 19th and 20th Centuries)*, Forschungsschwerpunkt Wissenschaftsforschung (Bielefeld: B. Kleine, 1986), ca. 110 pp.

John A. Garraty, *The Great Depression* (New York: Doubleday Anchor Books, 1987), pp. 182-211.

NOVEMBER 1. Comparative Labor History.

Reading Assignment

Martin Shefter, "Trade Unions and Political Machines: The Organization and Disorganization of the American Working Class in the Late Nineteenth Century," in Ira Katznelson and Aristide R. Zolberg, eds. *Working Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), pp. 197-276.

Mary Nolan, "Economic Crisis, State Policy, and Working-Class Formation in Germany, 1870-1900," in Ira Katznelson and Aristide R. Zolberg, eds. *Working Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), pp. 352-93.

NOVEMBER 8. No class this week. *Individual meetings with instructor.*

(no reading assignment)

NOVEMBER 15. * * Paper draft due * * (in History Department office, 3211 Humanities, by 4:30 p.m.). No class this week.

(no reading assignment)

NOVEMBER 22. HOLIDAY. Pick up paper drafts in History Department office, 3211 Humanities, on Monday, Nov. 26.

NOVEMBER 29. Comparative Women's History. (Sign-up for 15-minute presentations.)

Reading Assignment

Barbara Franzoi, *At the Very Least She Pays the Rent: Women and German Industrialization, 1871-1914*, Contributions in Women's Studies, No. 57 (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985), pp. 17-59.

Alice Kessler-Harris, *Out to Work: A History of Wage-Earning Women in the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982), pp. 108-41.

DECEMBER 6. 15-minute presentations on research topic, problems, progress, results. (No reading assignment.)

DECEMBER 13. 15-minute presentations on research topic, problems, progress, results. (No reading assignment.)

* * * * *Final papers due Thursday, Dec. 20, 10:00 a.m.* * * *