

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1985-86

History 901

READINGS IN AMERICAN ECONOMIC
AND BUSINESS HISTORY

Prof. Lindstrom

Seminar Topics

Jan. 21: The Evolution of American Economic and Business History

Jan. 28: Three Centuries of Economic Growth

*Robert Gallman, "The Pace and Pattern of American Economic Growth," in Lance Davis, Richard Easterlin, William Porter et. al., American Economic Growth, pp. 15-60.

*Diane Lindstrom, "Macroeconomic Growth: The United States in the Nineteenth Century," Journal of Interdisciplinary History (Spring, 1983), pp. 679-705.

John Kendrick, "Productivity," Encyclopedia of American Economic History, I, pp. 157-166.

Edward Denison, Accounting for United States Economic Growth, 1929-1969.

Feb. 4: Income Inequality

*Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson, "Three Centuries of American Inequality," in Paul Uselding, ed., Research in Economic History, I, pp. 69-113.

*Richard Easterlin, "Regional Income Trends, 1840-1950," in Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, The Reinterpretation of American Economic History, pp. 38-49.

Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson, American Inequality: A Macroeconomic History.

Feb. 11: The Colonial Economy

*John J. McCusker and Russell R. Menard, The Economy of British America, pp. 5-88.

*Russell Menard, "The Tobacco Industry in the Chesapeake Colonies, 1617-1730: An Interpretation" in Research in Economic History, V, pp. 109-177.

McCusker and Menard, The Economy of British America, pp. 91-377.

Edwin Perkins, The Economy of Colonial America.

James Shepherd and Gary Walton, The Economic Rise of Early America.

Feb. 18: Industrialization

*Lindstrom, "The Industrial Revolution in America" and _____,
"Eastern Industrialization, 1840-1860".

*Susan Lee and Peter Passell, A New Economic View of American History, pp. 83-107.

Thomas Cochran, Frontiers of Change.

Kenneth Sokoloff, "Industrialization and the Growth of the Manufacturing Sector in the Northeast, 1820-1850" (Harvard Ph.D., 1982).

Feb. 25: Transportation

*Albert Fishlow, "Internal Transportation," in Davis Easterlin and Parker, American Economic Growth, pp. 468-547.

*Lindstrom, "Domestic Trade and Regional Specialization," Encyclopedia of American Economic History, I, pp. 264-280.

Robert Fogel, Railroads and American Economic Growth and Fogel, "Notes on the Social Saving Controversy," Journal of Economic History (March, 1979), pp. 1-54.

Fishlow, American Railroads and the Transformation of the Antebellum Economy.

James Mak and Gary Walton, Western River Transportation.

March 4: Government in the Nineteenth Century

*Willard Hurst, Law and the Conditions of Freedom.

Peter Temin, "Capital and Growth," The Jacksonian Economy.

Lance Davis, "Savings Sources and Utilization," and "Banks and Their Economic Effects," in Davis, Easterlin and Parker, American Economic Growth, pp. 280-365; and _____, "Savings and Investment," in Encyclopedia of American Economic History, pp. 183-201.

March 11: Slavery and the Southern Economy

*Susan Lee and Peter Passell, A New Economic View of American History, pp. 154-223.

Robert Fogel and Stanley Engerman, Time on the Cross.

Gavin Wright, The Political Economy of the Cotton South.

March 18: Civil War and the Postbellum South

*Susan Lee and Peter Passell, A New Economic View of American History, pp. 223-265.

Roger Ransom and Richard Sutch, One Kind of Freedom.

Robert Higgs, Competition and Coercion.

April 1: More Discrimination, Labor Force and Population

- *Richard Easterlin, "The American Population" and "The American Labor Force," in Davis, Easterlin and Parker, American Economic Growth, pp. 121-229.
- *Peter Lindert, "Changing Economic Costs and Benefits of Having Children," in R.A. Bulatao and Ronald Lee (eds.), Determinants of Fertility in Developing Countries (New York, 1983), I, pp. 494-516.

Joan Hannon, "Immigrant Worker in the Promised Land" (Cliometric Conference, 1977).

Peter Hill, "Race, Skills and Earnings: American Immigrants in 1909," Journal of Economic History (June, 1971).

Peter Hill, "Relative Skills and Income Levels of Native and Foreign Born Workers in the United States," Explorations in American Economic History (January, 1975).

Paul McGouldrick and Michael Tannen, "Did Manufacturers Discriminate Against Immigrants Before 1914?" Journal of Economic History (Sept., 1977).

William Parker, "Agriculture" in Davis, Easterlin and Parker, American Economic Growth, pp. 369-417.

Robert Higgs, The Transformation of the American Economy, pp. 79-106.

Anne Mayhew, "A Reappraisal of the Causes of Farm Protest in the United States, 1870-1900," Journal of Economic History (June, 1972).

April 8: Rise of Big Business

- *Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., "Rise and Evolution of Big Business," Encyclopedia of American Economic History, II, pp. 619-38.
- *Glenn Porter, The Rise of Big Business.

Chandler, The Railroads; and Visible Hand, pp. 81-187.

Charles McCurdy, "Justice Field and the Jurisprudence of Government-Business Relationships," Journal of American History (March, 1978); "American Law and the Marketing Structure of the Large Corporation, 1875-1890," Journal of Economic History (Sept., 1978); and "The Knight Sugar Decision of 1895 and the Modernization of American Corporation Law," Business History Review (Autumn, 1979), pp. 304-42.

April 15: Origins of the Great Depression

- *W. Elliot Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 384-407.
- *Lester Chandler, America's Greatest Depression, pp. 1-26.
- *Susan Lee and Peter Passell, A New Economic View of American History, pp. 362-99.

April 22: The New Deal and Keynes

- *Lester Chandler, America's Greatest Depression, pp. 127-246.
- *Robert Lekachman, The Age of Keynes, pp. 58-143.

April 29: Big Business in Postwar America

Topics: Managerial Capitalism
Multinationals
Mergers (Conglomerates)
Military-Industrial Complex
Multi-Divisional, Decentralized Corporation

May 6: Big Government

Topics: Fiscal Policy Since 1941
Social Welfare
Regulation and Deregulation
International Economy

* Required Readings

Students will write two brief review essays (approximately 5 pages) from the books and articles listed under the dates from February 11 to April 8.

They will also write a longer paper (approximately 10 pages) on one of the topics listed under April 29 and May 6. This paper will be due the Thursday before the seminar at which it will be discussed.

Final grades will be based upon seminar participation, the review essays and the topical essay.