

The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Semester II, 1990-91

History 465: The American Economy to the Civil War Era
Professor Lindstrom

Required Texts:

W. Elliot Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent (Second Edition)
Thomas Doerflinger, A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise
and articles on reserve at the State Historical Society or Kinkos

Course Calendar

Jan. 23: Introduction to American Economic History
25: Capitalism and Commerce

Jan. 28: The Virginia Colony
30: The Tobacco Colonies in the 17th Century

Feb. 1: Massachusetts Bay in the 17th Century
Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 3-58; and John McCusker
and Russell Menard, The Economy of British North America, pp.
5-70.

Feb. 4: Agriculture in the 18th Century
6: Colonial Technology and Manufacturing
8: Colonial Commerce

Read: McCusker and Menard, The Economy of British North America,
pp. 295-308; and Stephen Innes, "Fulfilling John Smith's Vision.
Work and Labor in Early America," in Innes, Work and Labor in
Early America, pp. 3-47; and Lorena S. Walsh, "Urban Amenities
and Rural Sufficiency: Living Standards and Consumer Behavior in
the Colonial Chesapeake, 1643-1777," Journal of Economic History
(March, 1983), pp. 109-17.

Feb. 11: Colonial Currency
13: Unfree Labor in America: Servants and Slaves
15: The Dynamics of Demography

Read: Doerflinger, A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise, pp. 1-164;
and Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 59-88.

Feb. 18: Colonial Income and Wealth
20: British Mercantilism and the Road to Revolution
22: The Revolutionary War

Read: Alice Hanson Jones, Wealth of a Nation to Be, pp. 295-341;
Doerflinger, A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise, pp. 167-280; and
Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 89-119.

Feb. 25: The 1780s: The Costs and Benefits of Freedom
 27: Exam

Mar. 1: The Constitution and the Federalist Era
 Read: Doerflinger, A Vigorous Spirit of Enterprise, pp. 283-364.

Mar. 4: Land, Law and Economic Development
 6: The Golden Age of Commerce, 1790-1815
 8: The Transformation of the Countryside
 Read: Robert Heilbruner, "The Wonderful World of Adam Smith," in Heilbruner, The Worldly Philosophers, pp. 40-72; and Adam Smith, An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, pp. lvii-16.

Mar. 11: Modern Economic Growth
 13: The Transportation Revolution: I
 15: The Transportation Revolution: II
 Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 123-204; and Diane Lindstrom, "Macroeconomic Growth: The United States in the Nineteenth Century," Journal of Interdisciplinary History (Spring, 1983), pp. 679-705.

Mar. 18: The First Industrial Surge
 20: The Textile Industry
 22: The Changing World of Work
 Read: Erik Haites, James Mak, and Gary Walton, Western River Transportation, pp. 59-87; and Harlan Halsey, "The Choice Between High-Pressure and Low-Pressure Steam Power in America in the Early Nineteenth Century," in Journal of Economic History (December, 1981), pp. 723-41.

Apr. 3: Banking in the Antebellum Era
 5: Jackson and the Bank War
 Read: Brownlee, Dynamics Of Ascent, pp. 204-40.

Apr. 8: Government and the Antebellum Economy
 10: Exam
 12: Northern Agriculture I
 Read: Naomi Lamoreaux, "Banks, Kinship, and Economic Development," Journal of Economic History (June, 1986), pp. 647-67.

Apr. 15: Northern Agriculture II
 17: Slavery and the Southern Economy
 19: Slavery and Southern Society
 Read: Robert William Fogel, Without Consent or Contract: The Rise and Fall of American Slavery, pp. 17-198.

Apr. 22: The Coming of the Railroad

24: The Second Industrial Surge

26: The Iron Industry

Read: Nathan Rosenberg, The American System of Manufactures, pp. 1-72.

Apr. 29: Population and Immigration

May 1: The Urban Boom

3: Origins of the Civil War

Read: Fogel, "Nutrition and the Decline in Mortality since 1700: Some Additional Preliminary Findings," in Stanley Engerman and Robert Gallman, Long Term Factors in American Economic Growth, pp. 439-510; and John Komlos, "The Height and Weight of West Point Cadets: Dietary Change in Antebellum America," Journal of Economic History (December, 1987), pp. 897-927.

May 6: The Economic Impact of the Civil War I

8: The Economic Impact of the Civil War II

10: Growth and Inequality

Read: Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 241-265; Jeffrey Williamson, "American Prices and Urban Inequality Since 1820," Journal of Economic History, (June, 1976), pp. 303-32; and Robert A Margo and Georgia C. Villaflor, "The Growth of Wages in Antebellum America: New Evidence," in Journal of Economic History (December, 1987), pp. 873-894.