

WRITE ALL ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**Institut für Wirtschaftsgeschichte
Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Wolf**

Final Examination (1)
European Economic History (Part I)
23 February 2016, 11.00 am
Winter Semester 2015/ 2016

Time: 90 Minutes

Matriculation number/Matrikelnummer:

Family name/Familienname:

First name/Vorname:

Exam/Klausur Note:

Total/Gesamtpunktzahl: /60

Allowed auxiliary materials: none

Please read the following carefully:

Note: There are four questions with subsections. Please answer **TWO** of the four completely. Maximum number of points: 60 points. Use the answer sheet only for your solutions. Follow the instructions to each problem. Write down your name and student ID number on the front page of your answer sheets. Please write legibly! You can answer the exam either in English or German. Good luck!

Wichtiger Hinweis: Es gibt vier Fragen mit Untergliederungen. Beantworten Sie bitte ZWEI der vier Frage vollständig. Maximale Punktzahl: 60 Punkte. Benutzen Sie nur die vorgesehenen Lösungsblätter zur Lösung. Beachten Sie sorgsam die jeweiligen Anweisungen zu den Aufgaben. Versehen Sie zunächst das Deckblatt der Lösungsblätter mit Ihrer Matrikelnummer und Ihrem Namen. Bitte schreiben Sie lesbar! Die Klausuraufgaben dürfen auf Englisch oder auf Deutsch beantwortet werden. Viel Erfolg!

- Please answer **TWO** of the four question blocks below -

Question 1: Institutions in Economic Development (30)

Many economists place great emphasis on the role of institutions in affecting economic growth and development in the past and present.

- a. What do economists mean by institutions, and which kinds of institutions are usually considered "good" for economic development? (5)
- b. Were "good" institutions able to improve average living standards in pre-industrial times? (10)
- c. Due to colonialism and slavery, the originally more prosperous regions in Africa took a turn for the worse. What role did institutions play in their underdevelopment? (15)

Question 2: Rise of Europe (30)

From being a poor and fragmented region in the 14th century, Western Europe became the globally dominating force by the 19th century. Economic historians talk in this regard about an early divergence before the industrial revolution and a great divergence during the industrial revolution.

- a) How is the phenomenon of an early divergence explainable given the Malthusian forces? (10)
- b) Explain how the unique economic environment in Britain gave rise to the industrial revolution. Why did it not occur elsewhere or earlier? (15)
- c) Other European countries attempted to catch up with Britain. Briefly describe what some of the advantages and disadvantages of doing so were? (5)

Question 3: Age of Mass Migration (30)

- a) Describe briefly the pattern of European mass-migration to the Americas during the second half of the 19th century. Use a graph to explain how migration costs affected this pattern. (10)
- b) Real wages between Europe and the new world converged significantly between 1850 and 1914. Name at least four factors that contributed to this convergence (10)
- c) 19th century Europe also experienced migration within states at an unprecedented scale. Use insights from the Lewis-model to explain why we observe quite significant migration from rural to industrial regions even before real wages start to increase. (10)

- Please answer **TWO** of the four question blocks below -

Question 4: Economics of War (30)

- a) The diagram from Broadberry and Harrison (2005) shows the food market in Russia as well as Germany before WWI. Use the diagram to depict the changes to the food supply during wartime and explain the change (10)

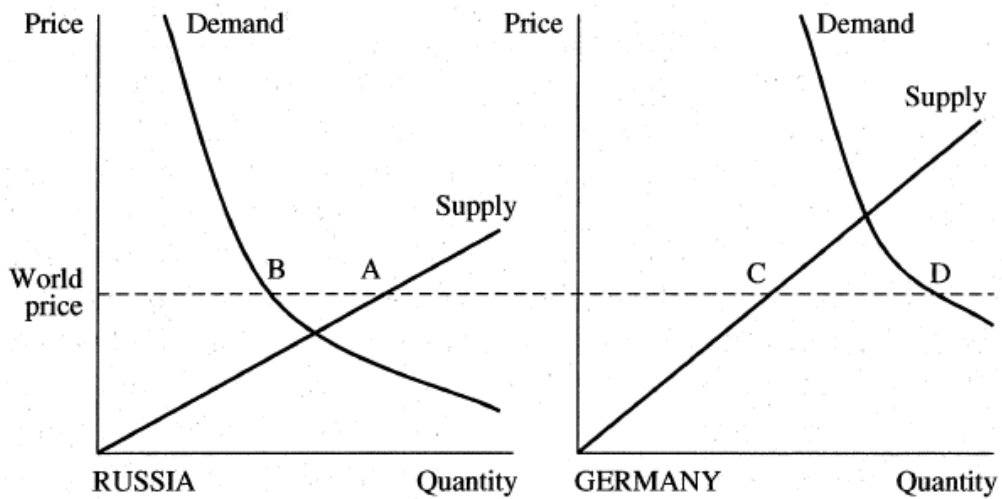


Figure 1.5. The prewar food market: Russia and Germany

- b) How did the decline in agricultural output affect the war effort in Germany? (15)
c) Did the situation in Great Britain differ from the German experience? (5)

GOOD LUCK!!!