

School of Business and Economics
Institute of Economic History
Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Wolf

Seminar 701063 - Summer 2011

The Pre-industrial Experience:

Malthusian Stagnation or Growth through Innovation?

Tuesday 10-12 pm at SPA1, 21a

Topic List

A) Theory

1. The Malthusian model
2. The Smithian model and Boserup's model
3. Unified Growth Theory: From preindustrial stagnation to modern economic growth?
4. Defining "subsistence" income

B) Measurement

1. National income estimates for the preindustrial world
2. The 'price of provisions' and real wages as an indicator of income
3. Reconstructing demographic data
4. Testing the Malthusian model

C) Debate

1. Fertility strategies and economic growth: Survival of the richest?
2. How can we explain current world income inequality?
3. Are developing countries caught in a Malthusian trap?

D) Preindustrial Europe and the road to modern economic growth

1. Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire
2. Government and institutions
3. Technological progress
4. Money and finance
5. Market integration
6. The industrial revolution and modern economic growth: what changed?

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