# The JOURNAL of ECONOMIC HISTORY

VOLUME XXXV

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#### **ABSTRACTS**

#### ARTICLES

FENOALTEA

Authority, Efficiency, and Agricultural Organization in Medieval England and Beyond

ROSTOW

Kondratieff, Schumpeter, and Kuznets: Trend Periods Revisited

HILTON

Vargas and Brazilian Economic Development, 1930-1945: A Reappraisal of his Attitude Toward Industrialization and Planning

STEIN

The Profitability of the Nantes Slave Trade, 1783-1792

ADAMS

Residential Construction Industry in the Early Nineteenth Century

#### REVIEW ARTICLES

AITKEN

In the Beginning . . .

BLOMQUIST

De Roover on Business, Banking, and Economic Thought

EDITORS' NOTES

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

BOOKS RECEIVED

INDEX TO VOLUME XXXIV

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## THE JOURNAL of ECONOMIC HISTORY

**VOLUME XXXV** 

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organization and the exempt status for Federal Educing Income tax purposes  11. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION  A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Net Press Run)  B. PAID CIRCULATION  1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES  2. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS  C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION  D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEASAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES	r	AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS  3, 750  0  3, 605  20	aubmit explanation of change with this statement.)  ACTUAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAR- EST TO FILING DATE  3,800  0  3,558  3,558  20
organization and the exempt status for Federal Adultin income tax purposes  11. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION  A. TOTAL NO. COPIES PRINTED (Net Press Run)  B. PAID CIRCULATION  1. SALES THROUGH DEALERS AND CARRIERS, STREET VENDORS AND COUNTER SALES  2. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS  C. TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION  D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEAN SAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES  E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D)  F. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED  1. OFFICE USE, LEFT-OVER, UNACCOUNTED, SPOILED	r	AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS  3, 750  0  3, 605  3, 605  20  3, 625	aubmit explanation of change with this statement.)  ACTUAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAR-EST TO FILING DATE  3, 800  0  3, 558  20  3, 578
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### THE JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY

Volume XXXV	December 1975 Nun	ıber 4
ABSTRACTS		
ARTICLES		
	EA cy, and Agricultural Organization in Medi Beyond: A Hypothesis	- 693
W. W. Rostow Kondratieff, Schun	npeter, and Kuznets: Trend Periods Revisited	<i>l</i> 719
	on an Economic Development, 1930-1945: A Re titude Toward Industrialization and Planning	
Robert Stein The Profitability of	f the Nantes Slave Trade, 1783-1792	779
Donald R. Adams Residential Constr tury	s, JR. uction Industry in the Early Nineteenth Cen	- 794
REVIEW ARTICLE	S	
Hugh G. J. Aitke In the Beginning.		817
THOMAS W. BLOM De Roover on Bus	iquist iness, Banking, and Economic Thought	821
EDITORS' NOTES		831
REVIEWS OF BOC	oks	
BARBER, WILLIAM J.	British Economic Thought and India, reviewed by Ralph B. Price	l 837
BARDET, JEAN-PIERRE AND PIERRE CHAUNU	Le Bâtiment: Enquête d'histoire économique XIVe XIXe siècles, reviewed by Robert Forster	838
BARTON, JOSEF J.	Peasants and Strangers: Italians, Rumanians, and Slovaks in an American City, 1890-1950, reviewed by Roy Lubove	l 840
BERGIER, JEAN-FRANÇOIS	Naissance et croissance de la Suisse industrielle and	•
JEQUIER, FRANÇOIS	Une entreprise horlogère du Val de Travers Fleurier Watch Co. S.A.; De l'atélier familia du XIX <sup>o</sup> aux concentrations du XX <sup>o</sup> siècle reviewed by Hans H. Jenny	<i>l</i> ,

BINDER, FREDERICK MOORE	Coal Age Empire: Pennsylvania Coal and Its Utilization to 1860, reviewed by Simeon J. Crowther	843
BRENNER, Y. S.	A Short History of Economic Progress,	
GOULD, J. D.	Economic Growth in History, Survey and Analysis, and	
YOUNGSON, A. J.	Economic Development in the Long Run, reviewed by Douglass C. North	844
CAIN, LOUIS P. AND PAUL J. USELDING, editors	Business Enterprise and Economic Change, Essays in Honor of Harold F. Williamson, reviewed by Alfred S. Eichner	846
CARTER, ALICE CLARE	Getting, Spending and Investing in Early Modern Times, reviewed by Jan de Vries	849
CHALKIN, C. W. AND M. A. HAVINDEN, editors	Rural Change and Urban Growth 1500-1800: Essays in English Regional History in Honour of W. G. Hoskins, reviewed by Ronald M. Berger	850
DAVID, PAUL ALLEN	Technical Choice, Innovation and Economic Growth: Essays on American and British Experi- ence in the Nineteenth Century, reviewed by G. N. von Tunzelmann	852
DE CECCO, MARCELLO	Money and Empire: The International Gold Standard, 1890-1914, reviewed by Michael Edelstein	855
DOCKÈS, PIERRE	L'internationale du capital, reviewed by Charles P. Kindleberger	856
DONNELLY, JAMES S., JR.	The Land and the People of Nineteenth Century Cork: The Rural Economy and the Land Ques- tion, reviewed by Barbara L. Solow	857
drabble, john h.	Rubber in Malaya, 1876-1922: The Genesis of the Industry, reviewed by William Woodruff	859
FISHER, CLENN W.	Taxes and Politics, A Study of Illinois Public Finance, reviewed by W. Elliot Brownlee	861
GEIGER, REED G.	The Anzin Coal Company, 1800-1833: Big Business in the Early Stages of the French Industrial Revolution, reviewed by Charles E. Freedeman	862
GUDERZO, GIULIO	Finanza e politica in Piemonte alle soglie del decennio cavouriano, reviewed by Frank Murtaugh	863
HAUSER, WILLIAM B.	Economic Institutional Change in Tokugawa Japan: Osaka and the Kinai Cotton Trade, reviewed by G. Cameron Hurst III	864
HIGGS, E. S., editor	Palaeoeconomy: Being the Second Volume of Papers in Economic Prehistory by Members and Associates of the British Academy Major Research Project in the Early History of Agriculture, reviewed by George Dalton	866
HOLMES, MICHAEL S.	The New Deal in Georgia: An Administrative History, reviewed by Ellis W. Hawley	867
HUFTON, OLWEN H.	The Poor of Eighteenth-Century France, reviewed by Richard M. Golden	868

HUTT, W. H.	A Rehabilitation of Say's Law, reviewed by Thomas Sowell	870
HYDE, FRANCIS E.	Far Eastern Trade, 1860-1914, reviewed by John Huttman	871
KARKAR, YAKUB N.	Railway Development in the Ottoman Empire, 1856-1914, reviewed by John R. Lampe	872
KELCH, RAY A.	Newcastle, A Duke Without Money: Thomas Pelham-Holles 1693-1768, and	
GWYN, JULIAN	The Enterprising Admiral: The Personal Fortune of Admiral Sir Peter Warren, reviewed by Robert A. Smith	873
KEYNES, MILO, editor	Essays on John Maynard Keynes, reviewed by M. Bronfenbrenner	876
KLINGAMAN, DAVID D. AND RICHARD K. VEDDER, editors	Essays in Nineteenth Century Economic History: The Old Northwest, reviewed by Fred Bateman	879
LÉON, PIERRE, FRANÇOIS CROUZET, AND RICHARD CASCON	L'Industrialisation en Europe au XIX <sup>e</sup> siècle, Car- tographie et typologie, reviewed by John P. McKay	881
LINDBECK, ASSAR	Swedish Economic Policy, reviewed by Folke Dovring	884
LIVESAY, HAROLD C.	Andrew Carnegie and the Rise of Big Business, reviewed by Stephen Salsbury	885
MANN, JULIA DE LACY	The Cloth Industry in the West of England from 1640 to 1880,	
	and	
HART, N. B. AND K. G. PONTING, editors	Textile History and Economic History, Essays in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns	886
•	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, re-	886 889
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND  EUGENE D. GENOVESE,	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns	
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND EUGENE D. GENOVESE, editors	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns	889
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND EUGENE D. GENOVESE, editors  NIEMI, ALBERT W., JR.	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns	889 890
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND EUGENE D. GENOVESE, editors  NIEMI, ALBERT W., JR.  NISHIMURA, SHIZUYA	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns  Plantation, Town and County: Essays on the Local History of American Slave Society, reviewed by Jay R. Mandle  State and Regional Patterns in American Manufacturing, 1860-1900, reviewed by Robert P. Swierenga  The Decline of Inland Bills of Exchange in the London Money Market 1855-1913, reviewed by Robert Craig West  History of Population Theories, reviewed by Stew-	889 890 891
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND EUGENE D. GENOVESE, editors  NIEMI, ALBERT W., JR.  NISHIMURA, SHIZUYA  OVERBEEK, J.	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns  Plantation, Town and County: Essays on the Local History of American Slave Society, reviewed by Jay R. Mandle  State and Regional Patterns in American Manufacturing, 1860-1900, reviewed by Robert P. Swierenga  The Decline of Inland Bills of Exchange in the London Money Market 1855-1913, reviewed by Robert Craig West  History of Population Theories, reviewed by Stewart Long  Twelfth-Century Europe: An Interpretive Essay,	889 890 891 892
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND EUGENE D. GENOVESE, editors  NIEMI, ALBERT W., JR.  NISHIMURA, SHIZUYA  OVERBEEK, J.  PACKARD, SIDNEY R.	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns  Plantation, Town and County: Essays on the Local History of American Slave Society, reviewed by Jay R. Mandle  State and Regional Patterns in American Manufacturing, 1860-1900, reviewed by Robert P. Swierenga  The Decline of Inland Bills of Exchange in the London Money Market 1855-1913, reviewed by Robert Craig West  History of Population Theories, reviewed by Stewart Long  Twelfth-Century Europe: An Interpretive Essay, reviewed by Norman A. Stillman  An Economic History of Medieval Europe, re-	889 890 891 892 893
PONTING, editors  MILLER, ELINOR AND EUGENE D. GENOVESE, editors  NIEMI, ALBERT W., JR.  NISHIMURA, SHIZUYA  OVERBEEK, J.  PACKARD, SIDNEY R.  POUNDS, N. J. G.	in Honour of Miss Julia de Lacy Mann, reviewed by Helen M. Burns  Plantation, Town and County: Essays on the Local History of American Slave Society, reviewed by Jay R. Mandle  State and Regional Patterns in American Manufacturing, 1860-1900, reviewed by Robert P. Swierenga  The Decline of Inland Bills of Exchange in the London Money Market 1855-1913, reviewed by Robert Craig West  History of Population Theories, reviewed by Stewart Long  Twelfth-Century Europe: An Interpretive Essay, reviewed by Norman A. Stillman  An Economic History of Medieval Europe, reviewed by John W. Perrin  Urban Networks in Ching China and Tokugawa	889 890 891 892 893

SLAVEN, ANTHONY	The Development of the West of Scotland, 1750-1960, reviewed by Paul L. Robertson	900
SMALLEY, ORANGE A. AND FREDERICK D. STURDIVANT	The Credit Merchants: A History of Spiegel, Inc., reviewed by Mary A. Yeager	902
SUTCLIFFE, ANTHONY AND ROGER SMITH	Birmingham, 1939-1970, reviewed by Edward P. Duggan	903
TEICHOVA, ALICE	An Economic Background to Munich: International Business and Czechoslovakia 1918-1938, reviewed by Werner Braatz	904
UNIVERSITY OF READING LIBRARY	Historical Farm Records, A Summary Guide to Manuscripts and Other Material in the Uni- versity Library Collected by the Institute of Agricultural History and the Museum of En- glish Rural Life, reviewed by Carolina Lane	905
WILKINS, MIRA	The Maturing of Multinational Enterprise: American Business Abroad From 1914 to 1970, reviewed by Robert Gilpin	906
WOODRUFF, WILLIAM	America's Impact on the World, reviewed by William N. Parker	908
YANEY, GEORGE L.	The Systematization of Russian Government: Social Evolution in the Domestic Administration of Imperial Russia, 1711-1905, reviewed by William J. Kelly	910
BOOKS RECEIVED	· •	913
INDEX TO VOLU	ME YYYV	016

#### ABSTRACTS

#### STEFANO FENOALTEA

Authority, Efficiency, and Agricultural Organization in Medieval England and Beyond: A Hypothesis

This article attempts to account for the fluctuations in the extent of demesne farming, in spite of the constant impetus to petty tenures as a result of relative transaction costs, by the contingent benefits of exercising authority over the labor force. In times of innovation, migration, and so on, authority may have been warranted by the masters' superior technical knowledge; in times of anarchy, on the other hand, the masters may have willingly exercised authority, even at a net cost in output, for the sake of supporting the existing social hierarchy.

#### W. W. Rostow

#### Kondratieff, Schumpeter, and Kuznets: Trend Periods Revisited

The literature on long cycles and secular trends is seen here as dealing with three distinct phenomena: the sequence of decelerating leading growth sectors; phases of scarce and abundant foodstuffs and raw materials; and waves of international and domestic migration. Analysts have generally concentrated on one or another of those phenomena. Historical analysis can be enriched if the three phenomena—and their interconnections—are dealt with together. The author discusses these interrelations and concludes that for purposes of synthesis we need a general disaggregated dynamic theory of production and prices.

#### STANLEY E. HILTON

Vargas and Brazilian Economic Development, 1930-1945: A Reappraisal of his Attitude Toward Industrialization and Planning

This article utilizes new archival material and a broader conceptual approach to demonstrate that the prevailing interpretation of federal economic thought and policies in Brazil during the Depression era is untenable. The Getúlio Vargas government (1930-1945) was, in fact, profoundly interested in planning from 1930 on, and it also committed itself at the outset, for politico-strategic as well as economic reasons, to structural transformation of the economy via industrialization. The latter 1930's do not, therefore, represent the watershed in federal policies that previous historians have argued.

#### ROBERT STEIN

#### The Profitability of the Nantes Slave Trade, 1783-1792

An examination of the returns realized in the Nantes slave trade suggests that on balance this branch of commerce was profitable, even in the last years of the old regime. The profits varied widely, however, and the author considers a number of alternative explanations of the rates of return in this branch of commerce. He finds that the available data indicate that the returns were largely a function of two variables: the costs of outfitting the expedition, and the number of slaves delivered to the French Antilles.

#### DONALD R. ADAMS, JR.

#### Residential Construction Industry in the Early Nineteenth Century

Using census data and a detailed record from Philadelphia, 1785-1830, the author constructs a weighted cost index for the construction industry in the antebellum period. The findings indicate that for this industry costs have been stable over a very long time period, as has productivity. In the absence of technological change, the construction industry did not substitute factor inputs so as to lower costs. These conclusions can probably be applied to all eastern cities during the antebellum years.

#### CONTENTS OF VOLUME XXXV

#### 1975

#### Number 1, March

Papers Presented at the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Economic History Association

ADTICI EC

ARTICLES		
SYLVIA L. THRUPP FREDERIC C. LANE	Comparative Study in the Barnyard The Role of Governments in Economic Growth	1
FREDERIC C. LANE	in Early Modern Times	8
	Discussion: Douglass C. North and Robert Paul Thomas	. 18
C. P. KINDLEBERGER	The Rise of Free Trade in Western Europe, 1820- 1875	20
JOHN R. LAMPE	Varieties of Unsuccessful Industrialization: The Balkan States Before 1914	56
EDWARD REYNOLDS	Discussion: Paul M. Hohenberg, John P. McKay Economic Imperialism: The Case of the Gold	86
MICHAEL MONTEON	Coast	94
	Bases of Economic Imperialism  Discussion: D. M. P. McCarthy	117 134
ANNA JACOBSON	Monetary Trends in the United States and the	100
SCHWARTZ HUGH T. ROCKOFF	United Kingdom, 1878-1970: Selected Findings Varieties of Banking and Regional Economic De-	138
FRED BATEMAN,	velopment in the United States, 1840-1860 Comparative Regional Development in Antebel-	160
THOMAS WEISS	lum Manufacturing	182 2 <b>0</b> 9
RAYMOND W.	Discussion: Edward P. Duggan, George D. Green The Quantitative International Comparison of Fi-	209
GOLDSMITH	nancial Structure and Development	216
HUGH M. NEUBURGER, HOUSTON H. STOKES	German Banking and Japanese Banking: A Comparative Analysis	238
DOCTORAL CANDIDATES	Summaries of Doctoral Dissertations by: Duane E. Ball, Paul G. E. Clemens, David A. Denslow, Jr., Lawrence A. Herbst, Diane L. Lindstrom, Benjamin Ravid, and Marie Elizabeth Sushka Discussion: Harry N. Scheiber, Richard Sylla	253 286
EDITOR'S NOTES		296
	Number 2, June	
ARTICLES		
CLAUDIA G. GOLDIN, FRANK D. LEWIS	The Economic Cost of the American Civil War: Estimates and Implications	299
ALAN L. OLMSTEAD	The Mechanization of Reaping and Mowing in American Agriculture, 1833-1870	327
GRAYDON R. HENNING, KEITH TRACE	Britain and the Motorship: A Case of the Delayed Adoption of New Technology?	353
STEFANO FENOALTEA	The Rise and Fall of a Theoretical Model: The Manorial System	386
K. H. NORRIE	The Rate of Settlement of the Canadian Prairies,	
RICHARD C. EDWARDS	Stages in Corporate Stability and the Risks of Corporate Failure	410

NOTES		
R. TAYLOR DENNEN DAVID W. GALENSON	Cattle Trailing in the Nineteenth Century Cattle Trails, Quarantine Laws, and Falling Profits: A Reply to Mr. Dennen	458 461
EDITOR'S NOTES	is. A hepty to Mr. Demen	467
		468
		491
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR	READERS	497
	Number 3, September	
ARTICLES		
RICHARD T. RAPP	The Unmaking of the Mediterranean Trade Hegemony: International Trade Rivalry and the Commercial Revolution	499
GAVIN WRIGHT, HOWARD KUNREUTHER	Cotton, Corn and Risk in the Nineteenth Century	526
HEYWOOD FLEISIG	The Central Pacific Railroad and the Railroad Land Grant Controversy	552
BARBARA G. KATZ	Purges and Production: Soviet Economic Growth, 1928-1940	567
GENE SMILEY	Interest Rate Movement in the United States,1888-1913	591
GIORGIO CANARELLA, JOHN A. TOMASKE	The Optimal Utilization of Slaves	621
NOTES AND DISCUSSIO		
ARCHIBALD R. LEWIS	Medieval Social and Economic History as Viewed by North American Medievalists	630
ALBERT W. NIEMI, JR.	Journal Publication Performance of Economic History Programs: 1960-1969 and 1970-1974	635
EDITORS' NOTES		642
REVIEWS OF BOOKS .		<b>64</b> 6
BOOKS RECEIVED		688
	Number 4, December	
ARTICLES		
STEFANO FENOALTEA	Authority, Efficiency, and Agricultural Organiza- tion in Medieval England and Beyond: A Hy-	693
w. w. rostow	pothesis	719
STANLEY E. HILTON	Vargas and Brazilian Economic Development, 1930-1945: A Reappraisal of his Attitude To- ward Industrialization and Planning	754
ROBERT STEIN	The Profitability of the Nantes Slave Trade	779
DONALD R. ADAMS, JR.	Residential Construction Industry in the Early Nineteenth Century	794
REVIEW ARTICLES		
HUGH G. J. AITKEN THOMAS W. BLOMQUIST	In the Beginning  De Roover on Business, Banking, and Economic Thought	817 821
EDITORS' MOTES	I mought	831
		837
BOOKS RECEIVED	······································	913