

New Economic School

3rd module

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Russian Economic History

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Aim: The aim of the course is to provide a review of Russian economic history together with main concepts explaining the peculiarities of economic and institutional development of the country. The course combines historical narrative with formal economic analyses; the course pays special attention to evaluation of economic policies undertaken in the past. The learning outcome is that students will achieve working knowledge on Russian economic development, historical statistics, institutions and their evolution over time and will learn how to apply economic analysis to Russian history.

Summary: The course focuses on Russian history in the 19th and 20th centuries. During that time, Russia had a different experience of economic development relative to the rest of the world, transiting from market to plan and back. After a brief review of the national development in the pre-modern period, the course covers main features of Russian industrialization before and under state socialism, discusses efficiency, stability and reasons of the collapse of the socialist system. The course shows historical foundations of the economic models and theories used to analyze Russian historical experience.

The grade will be based as follows:

- 5% in-class participation
- 15% impromptu quizzes (I will conduct a number of impromptu quizzes during the lectures using the Socrative software);
- 40% referee-reports on scholarly papers
- 40% on final exam.

Optionally (replaces final exam): 40% undertake a course project, write a paper and present in class.

A non-fail grade for the final exam (or the paper if this option is chosen), at least half of referee-reports are requirements to pass the course.

A guide for referee-reports.

A good referee-report on an economic history paper should address three questions: What is the paper about? Why is the paper interesting/important? What shortcomings does the paper have? The report should provide a summary of the paper and main arguments; the summary should be brief (remember about the word limit), there is no need to reproduce all details. The report should discuss potential contribution of the

paper to the related subfield of the literature. The critique should be constructive; if you see a problem, you should suggest a potential solution. Also do not forget to provide your general evaluation of the paper. The limit is 800 words per report. Penalty is 10 percent per day if the deadline is missed.

A guide for course projects.

Optionally, students can apply to write and defend in class an essay on an economic history topic. The essay will be broken up into smaller components, and graded accordingly. A course project should address a problem, a process, a phenomena or an institution from any period of Russian history. The topic should be interesting from economic perspective. You should choose a topic, search for the relevant literature (and possibly for the data) and make an original analysis of the chosen question from an economic point of view. In particular, you should (1) provide a historical background of the question, (2) explain why the topic is interesting from economic and historical points of views, i.e. motivate the project, (3) review the literature critically and make at least one original augmented statement on the subject. A simple history telling is unacceptable. It is highly appreciated if the project includes an empirical part (that will be marked with extra points).

A topic of your course-project must be approved by the professor. A list of potential topics will be provided in the beginning of the course; but I encourage you to suggest topics on your own.

Students might implement projects in groups of 2 or 3. If you choose the course-paper option, topics must be chosen (and approved) by the end of the third week. Abstracts and suggested literature for the projects must be submitted by the end of the fourth week. Students have to present their projects in class during the sixth and seventh weeks (one third of each lecture during these weeks will be reserved for this purpose; additional classes will be organized, if necessary). A draft of the project should be submitted at least one day before the presentation. The draft weights 10 percent of the final course-project grade. Students will have an opportunity to improve the original draft after presentation. The final version of the project should be submitted by the end of the exam week. At any point before the exam, students can decide to abandon the paper and instead take the final.

Final exam.

The final exam will have a take-home format.

Anti-plagiarism policy.

Any evidence of plagiarism will be punished by a failure grade. REMEMBER: if you do not cite properly, you are already guilty in plagiarism.

Attendance. Attendance is strictly required. Students who miss 50% of the lectures will not be allowed to take the exam and will fail the course.

Illustrative reading: There is no single textbook, but the following monographs could be use as an illustrative reading.

General works:

Гайдар Е. Т. Долгое время. Россия в мире: очерки экономической истории. Москва, Дело, 2005.

Грегори, Пол. Экономический рост Российской империи (конец XIX – начало XX века): Новые оценки. М.: Росспэн. 2003.

Gregory, Paul R., and Stuart, Robert C. Soviet Economic Structure and Performance, Reading, MA: Harper & Row, 1974, revised 1981, 1986, 1990; revised as Soviet and Post-Soviet Economic Structure and Performance, Reading, MA: HarperCollins, 1994; revised as Russian and Soviet Economic Structure and Performance, Reading, MA: Addison Wesley, 1998, 2001.

Nove, Alec. An Economic History of the USSR, 1st edn, London: Allen Lane, 1969; revised 1989; revised as An Economic History of the USSR, 1917–1991, London: Penguin Books, 1992.

Imperial period:

Gatrell, Peter. The Tsarist Economy, 1850-1917. London, 1986.

Gregory, Paul R. Before Command: an Economic History of Russia from Emancipation to the First Five-Year Plan. 1994).

Transition from market to plan:

Davies, R.W., Mark Harrison, & S.G. Wheatcroft (editors), The economic transformation of the Soviet Union, 1913-1945, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

Stalinism:

Allen, Robert C. Farm to Factory: A Reinterpretation of the Soviet Industrial Revolution. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Gregory, Paul R. The Political Economy of Stalinism: Evidence from the Secret Soviet Archives, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Gregory, Paul R., and Mark Harrison. "Allocation Under Dictatorship: Research in Stalin's Archives." Journal of Economic Literature 43:3, 2005, pp. 721-61.

Late socialism and collapse:

Hanson, Phillip. Rise and Fall of the Soviet Economy: An Economic History of the USSR, 1945-1991. Longman: 2004.

Ellman, Michael E. and Vladimir Kontorovich (editors), The Destruction of the Soviet Economic System: an Insiders' History, London: M.E. Sharpe, 1998. (EK)

On-line historical statistics:

<http://www.ristat.org> - various regional indicators on economics and social development for five cross-sections (1795, 1858, 1897, 1959 and 2002);

<http://www.hist.msu.ru/Dynamics/> - time-series on various aspects of Russian development (national level) in the 19th – early 20th century;

<http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/> - Russian/Soviet statistics in cross-country comparison;

<http://src-home.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/database/SESS.html> - Soviet statistics;

http://www.hist.msu.ru/Labs/Ecohist/version/r_data.htm - Russian statistics and some archival micro data;

<http://www.melgrosh.unimelb.edu.au/home.php> - The Melbourne Gateway to Research on Soviet History;

<http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/pril.php> - population statistics;

<http://memo.ru/history/> - historical sources and statistics on political repression.

<http://history.nsc.ru/kapital/project/about.html> - historical sources and statistics on Siberia.

Introduction.

1. Introduction. Aims of the course. A quantitative review of national history: 1000-2000. Russia and the world development. Russian backwardness in historical perspective.

Allen, Robert C. and Ekaterina Khaustova 'Backwardness and Economic Development in Nineteenth Century Russia' *Mimeo*, 2016

https://econ.arizona.edu/sites/econ/files/allenkhaustova_paper.pdf ;

Dormar, Evsey D. 'The Causes of Slavery or Serfdom: A Hypothesis', *The Journal of Economic History*, 30 (1): 18-32;

Gerschenkron, Alexander. *Economic backwardness in historical perspective*, a book of essays, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1962.

Maddison, Angus. *The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective*. OECD, 2001;

Markevich Andrei and Mark Harrison. 'Great War, Civil War, and Recovery: Russia's National Income, 1913 to 1928', *The Journal of Economic History* 71 (3): 672 – 703;

Mironov B.N. (1992) 'Consequences of the price revolution in the eighteenth century Russia', *Economics History Review*, XLV, 3: 457-78.

Russian empire as a development country

2. Economics of serfdom.

Buggle, Johannes and Stephen Nafziger "The Long--Run Consequences of Labor Coercion: Evidence from Russian Serfdom", *Mimeo*, 2016.

http://econ.as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/44895/SerfdomFall2016_draft.pdf

Castaneda Dower Paul, Evgeny Finkel, Scott Gehlbach and Steven Nafziger. 'The Substitutability of Collective Action and Representation: Evidence from Russia's Great Reforms'. *American Political Science Review*, forthcoming

<http://eh.net/eha/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Nafziger.pdf>;

Dennison T.K. *The Institutional Framework of Russian Serfdom*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011;

Dormar E.D., Machina M.J 'On the Profitability of Russian Serfdom', *The Journal of Economic History*, 1984, 44(4): 919-955;

Finkel Evgeny, Scott Gehlbach and Tricia Olsen, (2013). 'Does Reform Prevent Rebellion? Evidence from Russia's Emancipation of the Serfs', *Comparative Political Studies*, 2015;

Markevich, Andrei and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya. 'Economic Effects of the Abolition of Serfdom: Evidence from the Russian Empire', *American Economic Review*, forthcoming. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2514964 ;

Moon David 'Reassessing Russian Serfdom', *European History Quarterly*, 1996, 26: 483-526;

Dennison, Tracy and Nafziger, Peter. 'Micro Perspectives on Russian Living Standards, 1750–1917,' *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 2013 42(3): 397-441;

Stanziani, Alexander. *Bondage. Labor and Rights in Eurasia from the Sixteenth to the Early Twentieth Centuries*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2014.

Миронов Б.Н. *Благосостояние населения и революции в имперской России: 18 – начало 20 веков*. Москва, 2011.

3. Russian Industrialization before the 1917 revolution.

Allen, Robert C. *Farm to Factory: A Reinterpretation of the Soviet Industrial*

Revolution. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004. ch. 2;

Barkai, Haim. 'The Macro-Economics of Tsarist Russia in the industrialization Era: Monetary Developments, the Balance of Payments and the Gold Standard', *The Journal of Economic History*, 1973, 33 (2): 339-371;

Dempster G. 'The fiscal background of the Russian Revolution', *European Review of Economic History*, 2006, 10: 35-50;

Goldsmith, Raymond W. 'The Economic Growth of Tsarist Russia 1860-1913', *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 1961, 9(3): 441-475.

Gregg, Amanda. 'Shareholder rights and share capital: the effect of the 1901 Russian Corporation Reform, 1890–1905', *Economic History Review*, 2016, 1-25.

Gregg, Amanda. 'Factory Productivity and the Concession System of Incorporation in Late Imperial Russia,' *Mimeo* 2016. https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/14512460/AG_RussCorpSummer2016.pdf;

Gregory, Paul and Joel W. Sailors. 'Russian Monetary Policy and Industrialization, 1861-1913', *The Journal of Economic History*, 1976, 36 (4): 836-851;

Gregory, Paul R. 'Russian Living Standards during the Industrialization Era, 1885-1913', *Review of Income and Wealth*, 1980, 26(1);

Gregory, Paul R. *Before Command. An Economic History of Russia from Emancipation to the First Five-year Plan*, ch. 4;

Kahan Arcadius. 'Government Policies and the Industrialization of Russia', *The Journal of Economic History*, 1967, 27(4): 460-477;

Nafziger, Steven and Peter Lindert. 'Russian Inequality on the Eve of Revolution', *The Journal of Economic History*, 2014, 74(3): 767-798;

Давыдов М.Б. Всероссийский рынок и железнодорожная статистика в конце XIX - начале XX вв. РГГУ. СПб., Алетейя, 2010.

4. Agrarian sector of Russian economy after the Emancipation. The commune. 'Agrarian crises' debate. The Stolypin reform.

Aldashev, Gani and Catherine Guirking (2012). 'Deadly anchor: Gender bias under Russian colonization of Kazakhstan', *Explorations in Economic History* 49 (2012) 399–422.

Aldashev, Gani and Catherine Guirking (2016). 'Clans and Ploughs: Traditional Institutions and Production Decisions of Kazakhs under Russian Colonial Settlement'. *Journal of Economic History* 76(1): 76-108.

Castaneda Dower Paul, and Andrei Markevich. 'The Stolypin Reform and Agricultural Productivity in Late Imperial Russia'. *Mimeo*, 2017 https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers2.cfm?abstract_id=2361860 ;

Chernina, Eugenia, Paul Castañeda Dower and Andrei Markevich. 'Property Rights and Internal Migration: The Case of the Stolypin Agrarian Reform in the Russian Empire', *The Journal of Development Economics*, 2014, 110: 191-215;

Gerschenkron, A., 'Agrarian Policies and Industrialization: Russia 1861-1917' in H.J. Habbakuk and M.M. Postan, eds., *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe*” vol. 6, part 2. Cambridge, 1965;

Gregory, Paul R. 'Grain Marketing and Peasant Consumption, Russia 1885- 1913', *Explorations in Economic History*, 1980.

Nafziger Steven, Land redistribution and the Russian Peasant Commune in the 19th Century. *Mimeo*. http://www.ekh.lu.se/ehes/paper/RepartitionsPaper_June2007.pdf

Nafziger, Steven. 'Peasant Communes and Factor Markets in Late Nineteenth Century Russia,' *Explorations in Economic History*, 2010, 47(4): 381-402;

Nafziger, Steven. 'Serfdom, Emancipation, and Off-Farm Labor Mobility in Tsarist Russia', *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 2012, 27(1): 1-37;
Nafziger, Steven. 'Did Ivan's Vote Matter? The Case of the Zemstvo in Tsarist Russia,' *European Review of Economic History* 2011, 15: 393-441.
Nafziger, Steven. 'Communal Property Rights and Land Redistributions in Late Tsarist Russia,' *Economic History Review* 69.3 (2016): 773-800.

Transition from market to plan.

5. The First World War and an economic crises. Command economy of "the war communism" and an economic collapse.

Castañeda Dower, Paul and Andrei Markevich. (2017). Democratic Support for the Bolshevik Revolution: An Empirical Investigation of 1917 Constituent Assembly Elections. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3059131

Castañeda Dower, Paul and Andrei Markevich (2017). Labor Misallocation and Mass Mobilization: Russian Agriculture during the Great War. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *forthcoming*

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers2.cfm?abstract_id=2239084 ;

Gatrell, Peter, and Mark Harrison. 'The Russian and Soviet Economy in Two World Wars', *The Economic History Review*, 1993, 46(3);

Gatrell, Peter. *Russia's First World War: A Social and Economic History*. London: Longman, 2005.

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Сидоров А. И. Экономическое положение России в годы первой мировой войны. М, 1973.

6. NEP mixed economy and the development debates.

Allen, Robert. 'Agricultural Marketing and the Possibilities for Industrialization in the Soviet Union in the 1930s', *Explorations in Economic History*, 1997, 34: 387-410;

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Johnson, J., and Temin, P. 'The Macroeconomics of NEP', *The Economic History Review*, 1993, 46(4);

Erlich, Alexander. 'Preobrazhenski and the Economics of Soviet Industrialization' *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1950, 64(1);

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Ellman, Michael. 'Did the Agricultural Surplus Provide the Resources for the Increase in Investment in the USSR During the First Five Year Plan?' *The Economic Journal*, 1975, 85(340);

Harrison, Mark. 'Prices in the Politburo, 1927: Market Equilibrium Versus the Use of Force,' in Gregory, Paul (ed.), *The Lost Politburo Stenograms*. <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/mharrison/public/politburo2008.pdf>

Millar, James R. 'Mass Collectivization and the Contribution of Agriculture to the

First Five-Year Plan,' *Slavic Review*, 1970, 33(4);
Sah, R. K. and Stiglitz, J. E. 'The Economics of Price Scissors', *American Economic Review*, 1984, 74: 125-38.

The Soviet command economy under Stalin.

7. The great leap forward: soviet industrialization and economic development in the 1930s.

Allen, Robert C. *Farm to Factory: A Reinterpretation of the Soviet Industrial Revolution*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004;

Bergson, Abram. *The Real National Income of Soviet Russia since 1928*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1961;

Cheremukhin, Anton, Mikhail Golosov, Sergei Guriev and Aleh Tsyvinski. 'Was Stalin Necessary for Russia's Economic Development?', *NBER working paper*, 2013 <http://www.nber.org/papers/w19425>

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8. The command economy: foundations. Political economy of Stalinism.

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Harrison Mark. 'The Political Economy of a Soviet Military R&D Failure: Steam Power for Aviation, 1932 to 1939,' *The Journal of Economic History*, 2003, 63(1);

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Nove, Alec. 'The Problem of 'Success Indicators' in Soviet Industry,' *Economica*, 1958, 25(97);
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9. Terror and punishment in the Soviet system.

Belova Eugenia and Paul Gregory. 'Political economy of crime and punishment under Stalin,' *Public Choice*, 2009, 140: 463-478;
Ellman, Michael. 'Soviet Repression Statistics: Some Comments,' *Europe Asia Studies*, 2002, 54(7);
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'Late' socialism.

10. Post-war development. Decline of rates of economic growth.

Erkin Bairam. 'Elasticity of Substitution, Technical Progress and Returns to Scale in Branches of Soviet Industry: A New CES Production Function Approach,' *The Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 1991, 6(1): 91-96;
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11. Economics of shortage. Enterprises and households under soft budget constraints.

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12. Collapse of the system. Economics of transition.

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