Theme: Economic consequences of war and conflict

Papers and proposals for sessions are invited for the APEBH 2014 conference. The main conference theme is ‘Economic consequences of war and conflict’ but the organisers welcome proposals for contributions on other topics in economic, social, and business history, as well as to proposals for sessions on particular themes.

Researchers across a broad range of disciplines are warmly welcomed. Early career researchers are encouraged to participate. The conference organisers are particularly interested in attracting papers that examine topics in the context of the Asia-Pacific region and papers that provide an international comparative perspective.

In 2014 the world remembers the start of World War I in July 1914. The four years of war during 1914-1918 left their mark on the economies of the countries involved in the conflict, but also the countries that were not involved in the war experienced economic consequences that lasted at least several years. Although warfare was largely concentrated in Europe, Asia felt the effects of reduced shipping connections and disrupted supply lines, as well as reduced civilian production in warring countries. Since then, economies around the word have been affected by other major wars and local conflicts.

Joshua Goldstein’s entry ‘War and Economic History’ in The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History discussed the main issues relevant to this theme: Wars are expensive (in money and other resources), destructive (of capital and human capital), and disruptive (of trade, resource availability, labour management). Large wars constitute severe shocks to the economies of participating countries. Notwithstanding some positive aspects of short-term stimulation and long-term destruction and rebuilding, war generally impedes economic development and undermines prosperity.

What has been the comparative

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experience of such countries, their economies, companies and citizens? Were wars and conflict a source of new economic activity, and new technological development. Or did these advances fail to weigh up against the losses of people and capital and the disruption to business systems? How did product and factor markets fare during wars, conflicts and recovery? What are the lessons from comparative approaches to analysing such periods of war, conflict, hardship and opportunity?

Our theme could be approached from a number of perspectives, including those of the cliometrician, the economic historian, the economic theorist, the business historian, the applied economist, as well as the social historian. There is ample scope for new interpretations, new findings, as well as syntheses of existing work.

All abstracts, proposals for sessions, papers for refereeing, and papers for posting on the conference website should be emailed to all three members of the Programme Committee of the conference before 30 November 2013:

* A/Professor Jim McAloon, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand: Jim.McAlloon@vuw.ac.nz
* A/Professor Ken Jackson, University of Auckland, New Zealand: k.jackson@auckland.ac.nz
* Dr Keir Reeves, Monash University, Australia: Keir.Reeves@monash.edu

Conference website: http://apebh2014.wordpress.com
Organised with the support of the Waikato Management School in collaboration with the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand

FROM THE PRESIDENT
MARTIN SHANAHAN

In May the Centre for Economic History at ANU http://rse.anu.edu.au/CEH/ held two events. The first was a workshop entitled, “Economics and Finance in the Prelude to the Great Depression”. Participants explored the trends and developments in economics and finance in the era leading up to the Great Depression in the 1930s. A number of prominent economic historians presented their work including Selwyn Cornish and William Coleman (ANU) who revisited Australian monetary policy in the years before the return to the Gold Standard in 1925. Lyndon Moore (Melbourne Business School) followed with and quantitative examination of mergers in the British Banking system up to 1925, by which time there were just four major banks. Trevor Kollman (LaTrobe) examined house prices in the United States before and during the 1930s. Shaun Vahey (ANU) asked which historical periods would best forecast the GFC from 2008. The keynote presentation was given by Barry Eichengreen (UC Berkeley). His talk on ‘The Mother of All Sudden Stops’ looked at capital flows from six major financial centres to the European periphery, comparing these to recent events in Europe.

The second workshop, on “Transport Infrastructure: History and Policy”, took a long run perspective on how and why major infrastructure initiatives got off the ground and others did not. It also included evaluations of the impact of infrastructure on the volume and location of economic activity in Australia and overseas. The workshop opened with Henry Ergas (Deloitte/U. Wollongong) and Jonathan Pincus (Adelaide) asking why Australian railways were built and run by the public sector. Lionel Frost (Monash) explored the effects of rural
railways in the nineteenth century. Leo Dobes (ANU) explored the differing arguments for unifying the railway gauges. Malcolm Tull (Murdoch) gave a sweeping account of change at the ports over two centuries. John Tang (ANU) examined the effect of the spread of the railways on business enterprise in Meiji Japan, while Andrew Coleman (Otago/ NZ Treasury) estimated some effects of the 1825 opening of the Erie Canal in upstate New York. Cameron Gordon (U. Canberra) argued that technological and institutional developments helped shape the different means of financing roads and bridges in England. Finally, Corinne Mulley (Sydney) examined the relationship between unimproved land values and improvements to public transport.

In June, The University of South Australia hosted the first FRESH (Frontiers of Research into Economic and Social History) meeting to be held in Australia https://www.facebook.com/freshmeetings in conjunction with the 2nd Business History conference.

Also in June, but in much sunnier climes, the 7th World Congress of Cliometrics was held in Honolulu. There many of our colleagues engaged in vigorous and clarifying debate over a wide range of topics and methods. Most notable for members of the EHSANZ members, Professor Tim Hatton received the “Clio Can” for his exceptional support to the field of cliometrics. This was the first time the award has been given to a non-American economic historian.

The northern autumn sees a rush of conferences again, with the European Business History Conference in late August in Uppsala, and in September, the European Historical Economics Society Conference at LSE, and the Economic History association meeting in Washington D.C. Then of course there will be the conferences in early 2014, including our own! So there is always plenty to do. Please let us know if you are having a workshop, symposium or other event that might be of interest to economic and business historians. We would be happy to publicise this via our web-site and of course, to report it in future newsletters.

RECOMMENDED NEW BOOK TITLES

Turbulent and Mighty Continent: What Future for Europe?
Anthony Giddens
Hardcover
224 pages
October 2013, Polity

Angela Merkel: A Chancellorship Forged in Crisis
Alan Crawford, Tony Czuczka
ISBN: 978-1-118-64110-1
Hardcover
214 pages
July 2013
AUD $37.95

The China Crisis: How China's Economic Collapse Will Lead to a Global Depression
James R. Gorrie
ISBN: 978-1-118-47077-0
Hardcover
304 pages
May 2013
AUD $47.95
Deidre McCloskey will be visiting Australia and New Zealand from November 20\textsuperscript{th} to December 30\textsuperscript{th}. During her stay she will be giving a number of presentations and taking part in a variety of organised events. Deidre is a big cricket fan and is planning to take timeout to watch a few games down under. Her trip has been largely organised by Paul Oslington, Adjunct Professor, School of Business and School of Theology, Australian Catholic University and is here in her capacity as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia.

Deidre teaches economics, history, English, and communication at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A well-known economist and historian and rhetorician, she has written sixteen books and around 400 scholarly pieces on topics ranging from technical economics and statistics to transgender advocacy and the ethics of the bourgeois virtues. She is known as a "conservative" economist, Chicago-School style (she taught for 12 years there), but protests that "I'm a literary, quantitative, postmodern, free-market, progressive Episcopalian, Midwestern woman from Boston who was once a man. Not 'conservative'! I'm a Christian libertarian." Her latest book, *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World* (University of Chicago Press, 2010), which argues that an ideological change rather than saving or exploitation is what made us rich, is the second in a series of four on The Bourgeois Era. The first was *The Bourgeois Virtues: Ethics for an Age of Commerce* (2006), asking if a participant in a capitalist economy can still have an ethical life (briefly, yes). With Stephen Ziliak she wrote in 2008, *The Cult of Statistical Significance* (2008), which criticizes the proliferation of tests of "significance," and was in 2011 the basis of a Supreme Court decision.

Her official itinerary is:

| Nov 20-25 | Brisbane | Dec 12-17 | Dec 17-18 |
| Nov 22\textsuperscript{nd} | Economic Society Event | Perth | Economic Society Event |

| Dec 18-23 | New Zealand | Dec 18 |
| Dec 18 | VUW School of Economics and Finance. | Economic Society Event |
| Dec 18 | Reserve Bank of New Zealand. | Political Economy Club |
| Dec 18 | The Bourgeois Virtues. | |
| Dec 18 | 2.00pm. Topic: Why Investment or Exploitation or Trade Can't Explain the Great Enrichment, 1800 to the Present Vol 2. Business, Economics and Accounting Network (BEAN). | |
| Dec 18 | 12.30pm. Topic: The Rhetoric of Economics after 30 Years. | |
Ten Things to do in and around Hamilton

Hosts of the 2014 Conference

Hamilton, the home of the mighty Waikato Chiefs, (http://www.chiefs.co.nz/)

straddles the Waikato river as it flows from Lake Taupo to the sea. Within Hamilton you can visit the lovely Hamilton Gardens (http://hamiltongardens.co.nz/)

or the spectacular Waikato Museum (http://www.waikatomuseum.org.nz/)

with its excellent collection of Maori artifacts. A little further away on an easy hour’s drive to the west coast visit the surf capital that is Raglan and the Raglan & District Museum (http://raglanmuseum.co.nz/).

Choose instead to head south east and an easy one hour drive brings you to the geothermal wonderland that is Rotorua (http://www.rotoruanz.com/experiences/geothermal).

As well as the geysers and mud pools consider visiting Rainbow Springs (http://www.rainbowsprings.co.nz/) and/or the Polynesian Spa (http://www.rotoruanz.com/experiences/polynesian-spa).

As a side trip on your way to or from Rotorua, a must see visit is to the Waitomo glowworm caves (http://www.waitomo.com/waitomo-glowworm-caves.aspx).

If the caves weren’t enough the tranquil boat ride on the underground river leads to the amazing delights of millions of glowworms just above your head! Those wanting to see a Kiwi during the daytime need only go to Otorohanga Kiwi House and Native Bird Park (http://kiwihouse.org.nz/)

and those into Tolkien can visit Hobbiton Movie set and Farm Tour (http://www.hobbitontours.com/)

just outside Matamata. Finally, in the ten, those wanting an adrenaline rush can ride the Riverjet (http://www.rotoruanz.com/experiences/new-zealand-riverjet). Of course, there will be a wonderful conference to attend, so make time in your visit before or after the conference for some or all of the Top Ten things all within or a few hours drive from Hamilton City.
The International Maritime Economic History Association’s 7th International Congress of Maritime History will be held in Perth, Western Australia from Monday, 27 June to Friday, 1 July 2016.

The theme for the conference is “Old Worlds, New Worlds? Emerging themes in maritime history”. As with previous congresses, ICMH7 has adopted a broad concept of maritime history, treating it as an interdisciplinary discipline that covers all historical periods and areas and all aspects of humankind’s relationship with the sea from ancient times to the present.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for future conference information please send an email to:

ICMH7@murdoch.edu.au

Professor Malcolm Tull, School of Management and Governance, Murdoch University (Chairperson)
Dr Joseph Christensen, Asia Research Centre Murdoch University
Professor Chris Doepel, Dean, School of University of Notre Dame, Fremantle
Professor Lewis R. (Skip) Fischer Memorial University of Newfoundland
Dr Ruthy Gertwagen, Haifa University, Israel
Ms Sally May, Department of Maritime History
WA Maritime Museum
Dr Mack McCarthy, Adjunct Professor University of Notre Dame and Department of Maritime Archaeology, WA Maritime Museum
Dr Cindy McCreery, Department of History
University of Sydney
Dr Nonja Peters, Director of History of Migration Experiences (HOME) Centre, Curtin University
Dr Amelia Polonia University of Porto, Portugal

Associate Professor James Reveley, School of Management and Marketing, University of Wollongong
Mr Peter Ridgway, President, Australian Association for Maritime History
Prof. Dr. Lars U. Scholl, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany
Dr David Stevens, Director Strategic and Historical Studies, Sea Power Centre - Australia, Canberra
Mr Kevin Sumption, Director, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
Dr René Taudal Poulsen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Papers on Australian and New Zealand related topics on the impact of the First World War on International Business are being sought by the organisers. Please refer to:

http://eh.net/content/cfp-armageddon-and-mammon-impact-first-world-war-international-business
What is economic history?

Economic history is the study of our past development, particularly in relation to economics, labour, and business. It includes, for example, the economic development of nations, the growth of business enterprise, and the organisation of work.

While economic history draws extensively on its close relationships with the disciplines of economics and history, its ultimate strength lies in its broad inter-disciplinary connections across a wide range of social science and business subjects. It encourages diverse but rigorous approaches to understanding our economic past, which draw upon theories, concepts, and a wide range of historical information sources.