

Library Research Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to practice your library research skills. The assignment is due September 19.

Please choose **one** of the following research assignments. You can choose either to hand in a written summary of your findings or, if appropriate, simply make a copy of the document once you find it in the library. It is possible that if a book or periodical cited went through several editions, the pagination might differ from that given below.

- 1.) In early November 1956 there was great concern over Western Europe's oil supplies in the aftermath of the Anglo-French invasion of the Suez Canal zone. As a result of the invasion, the Suez Canal had been blocked to shipping and the Iraqi Petroleum Company pipeline had been sabotaged. Find a copy of *The Economist* magazine from November 10th 1956. Go to page 525 and make a copy of the table showing the origins of Europe's oil supplies during the January-June, 1956 period.
- 2.) After World War II Japan experienced a devastating inflation, which was brought to an end only after the implementation of the Dodge Plan in 1949, whereby the yen was stabilized at 360 to the dollar. Consult Jerome B. Cohen's *Japan's Economy in War and Reconstruction* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1949), page 448; and find the level of Japan's wholesale price index as of July 1948 (1933=100). (**Do not check this book out** since other students may also need to consult it.)
- 3.) Much of the "economic miracle" experienced by Western Europe after World War II has been ascribed to adaptation of American technology and methods in manufacturing. However, S.N. Broadberry has assembled interesting historical statistical material that tends to show incomplete convergence of European manufacturing productivity levels *vis à vis* American levels. He speculates that differing factor endowments put limits on the profitability of imitating U.S. methods. Consult Broadberry's "Convergence: what the historical record shows" in B. van Ark and N.F.R. Crafts *Quantitative Aspects of Postwar European Economic Growth* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996). Find the table showing the comparative levels of labor productivity in manufacturing. What was the level of German productivity versus British and U.S. levels in 1870? In 1938? In 1989? (**Do not check this book out** since other students may also need to consult it.)