SELECTED THEMES IN DEBATE IN QUANTITATIVE HISTORY

Choose on of the following topics, and write a 5-8 page double spaced essay.

1. *Was Southern Slave Labor More Efficient that Northern free labor?*

Robert W. Fogel, and Stanley L. Engerman. "Explaining the Relative Efficiency of Slave Agriculture in the Antebellum South," The American Economic Review, Vol. 67, No. 3. (June,1977), pp. 275-296. Gavin Wright, "The Efficiency of Slavery: Another Interpretation" The American Economic Review, Vol. 69, No. 1. (Mar., 1979), pp. 219-226. Paul A. David, Peter Temin and, "Explaining the Relative Efficiency of Slave Agriculture in the Antebellum South: Comment," ibid pp. 213-218 Thomas L. Haskell. "Explaining the Relative Efficiency of Slave Agriculture in the Antebellum South: A Reply to Fogel-Engerman,"ibid. pp. 206-207 and Donald F. Schaefer, Mark D. Schmitz, "The Relative Efficiency of Slave Agriculture: A Comment," ibid, pp.208-212 . Finally, see their "Reply", ibid, Vol. 70, No. 4. (Sep.,1980), pp. 672-690. and for general background to the debate see Paul A. David [et al.] , Reckoning with slavery : a critical study in the quantitative history of American Negro slavery (New York : Oxford University Press, 1976).

2. *Did Southern slave owners breed slaves for sale?*

Sutch, Richard. "The breeding of slaves for sale and the westward expansion of slavery, 1850-1860"in Stanley L. Engerman and Eugene D. Genovese, eds., Race and Slavery in the Western Hemisphere, Quantitative Studies. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975), pp. 173-210. and Robert W. Fogel and Stanley L. Engerman, Time on the Cross. The Economics of American Negro Slavery (Boston:Little, Brown & Co, 1974), vol.1, pp.78-86 "The Myth of Slave Breeding".

3. *Did higher fertility among US slaves mean better treatment compared to other slaves?*

Herbert S. Klein and Stanley L. Engerman, "Fertility Differentials between Slaves in the United States and the British West Indies: A Note on Lactation Practices and Their Possible Implications," William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd. Ser., Vol. 35, No. 2. (Apr., 1978), pp. 357-374. Robert W. Fogel, Without Consent or Contract. The Rise and Fall of American Slavery (NY: W.W. Norton, 1989), pp. 116-126 "Demographic Issues in the Struggle Against Slavery". C. Vann Woodward, American counterpoint : slavery and racism in the North-South dialogue (New York : Oxford University Press, 1983, c1971), chapter "US Slavery in the Age of Malthus."

4. *How many American Indians were there before 1492?*

Woodrow Borah, “The Historical Demography of Aboriginal and Colonial America: An Attempt at Perspective,” in William B. Denevan, ed., The Native Population of the Americas in 1492 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1976), pp.13-34Rudolph A. Zambardino, "Hispaniola in the 16th century: Demographic anomoly or Mathematical Illusion," Journal of Interdisciplinary History 11 (1980).

6 *Did the frontier lead to equality?*

J. R. Kearl, Clayne L. Pope, Larry T. Wimmer, “Household Wealth in a Settlement Economy: Utah, 1850-1870,” Journal of Economic History, Vol. 40, No. 3. (Sep., 1980), pp. 477-496. and Gary B. Nash, Class and society in early America (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall,1970).

7. *Did the profits from slavery and slaving finance the Industrial Revolution?*

Robin Blackburn, The making of New World slavery : from the Baroque to the modern, 1492-1800 (London ; New York : Verso, 1997), chapter 9; and Stanley L. Engerman, "The Slave Trade and British Capital Formation in the Eighteenth Century: A Comment on the Williams thesis," The Business History Review, 46 (1972), pp.430-443.

8. *How many Africans cross the Atlantic?*

Philip Curtin, The Atlantic Slave Trade, A Census (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969).

For those whose interests run more to Modern European History:

1. *Were the European empires assembled in the late nineteenth century important for stabilizing European capitalism or not? Can the theories of imperialism be reconciled with the numbers for the movements of goods, capital and labor?*

“The Economic Theory of Imperialism” in Winfried Baumgart, Imperialism: the Idea and Reality of British and French Colonial Expansion, 1880-1914 (London: Oxford University Press, 1982). J.A. Hobson, Imperialism. A Study (London, 1938), [reprint 1968. 1st edition 1902]. Vladimir Lenin, Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism in Collected Works, Vol.19 (New York, 1942). Hans-Ulrich Wehler, The German Empire, 1871-1918 (Leamington Spa: Berg, 1989). D.K. Fieldhouse, The Theory of Capitalist Imperialism (London, 1967). Wolfgang Mommsen, Theories of Imperialism (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980).

2. *After World War I, Germany was saddled with a large bill for reparations. What was Germany's capacity to pay? Were the obstacles to payment political or economic?*

William C. McNeil, American Money and the Weimar Republic [esp. chap. 4] (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986). John Maynard Keynes, The Economic Consequences of the Peace (London: Macmillan and Co., 1920). Etienne Mantoux, The Carthaginian Peace, or the Economic Consequences of Mr. Keynes (New York: Scribner, 1952). Karl Bergman, The History of Reparations (London: E. Benn, 1927). David Felix, "Reparations Reconsidered with a Vengeance" in Central European History 4 pp.171-79. Stephen A. Schuker, "American Reparations to Germany, 1919-1933" in Gerald D. Feldman et. al. (eds.), Die Nachwirkungen der Inflation auf die deutsche Geschichte, 1924-1933 (Munich: Oldenbourg, 1985).

3. *The end of the Weimar Republic and the beginning of the Nazi dictatorship was one of the great turning points of twentieth century history. Many argue that economic discontent was crucial to Weimar's demise. What was the economic room for maneuver for the Brüning government in the decisive years of the onset and spread of the worldwide Depression? Do the numbers show that high wages were an insuperable structural difficulty of the Weimar economy?*

Knut Borchardt, "Constraints and Room for Maneuver in the Great Depression of the Early 30s" in Perspectives on Modern German Economic History and Policy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991). J. Baron von Kruedener (ed.), Economic Crisis and Political Collapse: The Weimar Republic 1924-1933 (New York: Berg, 1990).

4. *Accepted wisdom has always stressed the importance of the Marshall Plan for restoring Europe's prostrate economies after World War II. Might the statistics be read differently to argue that Europe's own contribution to recovery has been too downplayed?*

Alan Milward, The Reconstruction of Western Europe, 1945-1951 (Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1984). Michael Hogan, The Marshall Plan: America, Britain, and the Reconstruction of Western Europe, 1947-1952 (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987). Lucrezia Reichlin, "The Marshall Plan Reconsidered," in Barry Eichengreen, (ed.), Europe's Post-war Recovery (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

5. *Read one of the articles or books below. Summarize its methodology and conclusions, and compare the author's findings and method with those of William Brustein's* The Logic of Evil, *which you have read for this course.*

Central European History, vol 17, no 1, 1984, “SYMPOSIUM: Who voted for Hitler?”, Childers, T *The Nazi Voter. The Social Foundations of Fascism in Germany, 1919-1933*, 1983; Falter, J W "The First German *Volkspartei*: the Social Foundations of the NSDAP", in Rohe, K (ed), *Factions, Parties and Political Traditions. Social Foundations of German Parties and Party Systems 1867-1987*, 1990; Fischer, C *Stormtroopers. A Social, Economic and Ideological Analysis 1929-1935*, 1983; Fischer, C (ed) *The Rise of National Socialism and the Working Classes in Weimar Germany*, 1996; Hamilton, R F *Who Voted for Hitler?*, 1982; Heilbronner O. & Mühlberger D “‘The Achilles Heel’ of German Catholicism: Who voted for Hitler?”, *European History Quarterly*, vol 27, 1997; Kater, M *The Nazi Party. A Social Profile of its Members and Leaders, 1919-1945*, 1983; Kele, M *Nazis and Workers. National Socialist Appeals to German Labor, 1919-1933*, 1972; Madden, P "The Social Composition of the Nazi Party 1919-1930" (Ph.D. thesis), University of Oklahoma, 1976; Madden, P "Some Social Characteristics of Early Nazi Party Members, 1919-1923", *Central European History*, vol 15, 1982; Madden, P "The Social Class Origins of Nazi Party Members as determined by Occupations, 1919-1933", *Social Science Quarterly*, vol 68, 1987; Mühlberger, D "The Sociology of the NSDAP: the Question of Working-Class Membership", *Journal of Contemporary History*, vol 15, 1980. Mühlberger, D "The Occupational and Social Structure of the NSDAP in the Border Province Posen-West Prussia in the early 1930s", *European History Quarterly*, vol 15, 1985; Mühlberger, D (ed) *The Social Basis of European Fascist Movements*, 1987; Mühlberger, D *Hitler's Followers. Studies in the Sociology of the Nazi Movement*, 1991; Stachura, P D "The Nazis, the Bourgeoisie and the Workers during the *Kampfzeit*", in Stachura, P D (ed) *The Nazi Machtergreifung*, 1983.

6. *Britain’s relative economic decline since 1945 has been much debated by economic historians. From your reading of Roger Middleton’s* The British Economy Since 1945 *summarize some of the main causes often cited for this phenomenon. Do you think any of the explanations appears conclusive or least more persuasive? Give me reasons and, if possible, some data to support your answer. You might want to consult some of the works below in formulating your answer:*

Beer, Samuel H. *Britain against Itself: The Political Contradictions of Collectivism*. New York: Norton, 1982. Booth, Alan, ed. *British Economic Development since 1945.* Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1995. Brittan, Samuel. “How British is the British Sickness?” *Journal of Law and Economics,* 21 (October 1978): pp. 245-68. Cairncross, Alec. *The British Economy Since 1945.* Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1995. Crafts, N. F. R. *Britain’s Relative Economic Decline 1870-1995*. London: Social Market Foundation, 1997. Elbaum, B. and W. Lazonick, eds. *The Decline of the British Economy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986. Gamble, A. *Britain in Decline.* New York: St. Martin’s, 1994. Kaldor, Nicholas. *Causes of the Slow Rate of Economic Growth of the United Kingdom*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1966. Newton, Scott and Dilwyn Porter. *Modernisation Frustrated: The Politics of Industrial Decline in Great Britain since 1900.* Olson, Mancur. *The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic*

Growth, Stagflation and Social Rigidities. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982. Pollard, Sidney. *The Wasting of the British Economy*. New York: St. Martin's, 1982. Prais, S. J. *Productivity and Industrial Structure: A Statistical Study of Manufacturing Industry in Britain, Germany and the United States.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981. Pratten, C. F. *Labour Productivity Differentials within International Companies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976. Thirlwall, A.P "The Balance of Payments Constraint as an Explanation of International Growth Rate Differences." *Banco del Lavoro Quarterly Review,* CXXVIII, 1979, pp. 44-53.