MODERN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF EUROPE SINCE CA 1450

Answer ONE question from Part I and ONE question from Part II. You are allowed four hours to complete this examination (two hours per question). You are on your honor not to consult any other materials, including notes or papers stored on your computer. Please return your completed exam paper to the graduate office by 5 PM today. Good luck.

Part I: Answer one question.

1. For a good part of the twentieth century, Malthusian-Ricardian theory provided the most widely accepted framework for understanding the European economy in the epoch before the industrial revolution. Specify the model and explain how it was applied to grasp/explain the long term economic evolution of medieval and early modern Europe, both in terms of income distribution and economic growth. To what extent, or in what ways, do you think the theory provides a good account of the historical trajectory it aims to comprehend. To what extent, if at all, does it fall short.

2. “Peasant property constitutes a major barrier to economic development.” Explain the rationale behind this assertion. Does a comparison of French versus English development in the period between 1450 and 1750 speak in favor or against it? Explain.

3. Going back to Bloch and Pirenne, historians have generally viewed the different regions of early modern Europe—eastern Europe (East Prussia, Poland), western Europe (say, France), and England—as characterized by different social structures and pursuing divergent economic trajectories. Provide a schematic account of the historical emergence of these different social structures and describe the ensuing divergent paths of economic development/economic stagnation during the early modern period.

4. Write an essay on the fourteenth century crisis and the seventeenth century crisis, describing them and specifying the forces that gave rise to each. Would you say that they are basically similar or different? Explain.

Part II: Answer one question

1. Discuss the economic rise of Germany and the main factors of her success in the 19th century European economy.

2. What was the core-periphery relationship in 19th-century European industrialization?

3. Discuss interwar economic nationalism and its consequences.