

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Minutes of the Meeting

Subject: B.A. (Hons.) Economics, Fifth Semester.

Credits: 6

Course: Economic History of India 1857-1947. Discipline Specific Elective HE56.

Date of Meetings: 16th July 2021, 5.00 p.m and 24 September 2021 4:00 p.m

Venue: Online (Google Meet)

Chair: Prof. Aditya Bhattacharjea, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

Attended by:

Mihir Pande, Ramjas College

Kartikeya Kohli, Aryabhatta College

Deb Kusum Das, Ramjas College

Francis Kamei, Satyawati College (Evening)

C Saratchand, Satyawati College

Course Description: This course analyses key aspects of Indian economic development during the second half of British colonial rule. In doing so, it investigates the place of the Indian economy in the wider colonial context, and the mechanisms that linked economic development in India to the compulsions of colonial rule.

Course Learning Outcomes: The course develops and enhances critical skills and ability to generate analytical reports on multi-disciplinary issues. It increases employability of students in multi-disciplinary research. It provides good training for placements in research-oriented as well as all such jobs that place emphasis on analytical skills as it exposes the students to understanding the intricacies of India's economic, political and social developments both in the past and present times.

Course Structure: The core of the course is designed to be discipline specific, however, it also takes inputs from the multiple social science disciplines hence it is suitable for students in the third year of the Economics (Hons) programme when they already have had an

exposure to basic economic theory as well as generic elective papers of other related disciplines. This course links with the two core courses entitled Indian Economy I and II, that deal with economic development after independence in 1947 in the B. A. (Hons) Economics programme.

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Introduction:

Colonial India: Background and Introduction

Unit 2: Macro Trends

National Income; population; Labour and occupational structure etc.

Unit 3: Agriculture

Agrarian structure and land relations; agricultural markets and institutions – credit, commerce and technology; trends in performance and productivity; famines.

Unit 4: Railways and Industry

Railways; the de-industrialisation debate; evolution of entrepreneurial and industrial structure; nature of industrialisation in the interwar period; constraints to industrial breakthrough; labour relations.

Unit 5: Economy and State in the Imperial Context

The imperial priorities and the Indian economy; drain of wealth; international trade, capital flows and the colonial economy – changes and continuities; government and fiscal policy.

Readings:

In both internal evaluation and final examinations, students will be required to deal with questions from alternative perspectives that may be provided by different readings. Readings with an asterisk (*) mark are essential for teachers. Students are encouraged to read them for better comprehension though questions will not be set on these.

Core Readings

Unit 1

1. P. Parthasarathy, 2011, **Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia did not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600-1850**, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Ch 2 on *India and the global economy, 1600–1800: Introduction* pp. 21-27; Section on *Bullion in the global economy* pp: 46-50 & Ch 8 on *Modern industry in early nineteenth-century India:*

Section on *The debate on the nineteenth-century Indian economy* pp 224-226; Section on *Industrialization in early nineteenth-century India* pp: 239-244; Section on *State and economy in nineteenth-century India* pp: 251-262.

Unit 2:

1. Sumit Guha, 1991, *Mortality decline in early 20th century India*, **Indian Economic and Social History Review**, vol. 28, Issue 4, pp. 371-74 and 383-87; (Note: pages 375-382, which involve Guha's critique of Klein, are to be de-emphasised for detailed reading and examination).
2. Tirthankar Roy, 2011, *Population and Labour*, **The Economic History of India 1857-1947**, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 11, Section on *Labour Force*, pp. 282-285.
3. J. Krishnamurty, 1982, *Occupational Structure* in Dharma Kumar (ed.) **Cambridge Economic History of India c.1757-c.1970**, vol. 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Ch. 6, pp. 533-550.
4. Tirthankar Roy, 2011, *Growth and Structural Change*, **The Economic History of India 1857-1947**, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 3, Section on *Measuring Change*, pp. 80-89.

Unit 3

1. Tirthankar Roy, 2011, *Agriculture*, **The Economic History of India 1857-1947**, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 4, pp. 104-148. (Note: pp: 40-41 on *Famines* to be de-emphasised for examination).
2. Irfan Habib, 2006, *Agriculture*, **Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People's History of India, vol. 28**, Tulika, Delhi, Ch. 3, Section 3.1 on *Peasant Agriculture*, Section 3.2 on *Commercialization of Agriculture* & Section 3.3 on *The Agrarian Classes*, pp. 51-74.
3. (*) Irfan Habib, 2006, *Agriculture*, **Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People's History of India, vol. 28**, Tulika, Delhi, Ch. 3, Section 3.4 on *Rural Indebtedness*, Section 3.5 on *Plantations* & Section 3.6 on *Destitution and Famines*, pp. 74-86.
4. (*) L. Chaudhary, B. Gupta, T Roy and A. V. Swami, 2016, *Agriculture in Colonial India*, in L. Chaudhary, B. Gupta, T Roy and A. V. Swami (eds.), **A New Economic History of Colonial India**, Routledge, London and New York, Ch.7, pp. 100-116.
5. Ira Klein, 1984, *When Rains Fail: Famine relief and mortality in British India*, **Indian Economic and Social History Review**, vol. 21, issue 2, pp. 185-214.

Unit 4

1. Dan Bogart and Latika Chaudhary, 2016, *Railways in Colonial India: an economic Achievement?* in L. Chaudhary, B. Gupta, T Roy and A. V. Swami (eds.), **A New Economic History of Colonial India**, Routledge, London and New York, Ch.9, pp. 140-160.

2. Irfan Habib, 2006, *Colonialism and the Indian Economy*, **Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People's History of India, vol. 28**, Tulika, Delhi, Ch.2, Section 2.3 on *Railways*, pp. 35-46.
3. P. Parthasarathi, 2009, *Historical Issues of Deindustrialization in Nineteenth Century South India*, in T Roy and Giorgio Riello (eds) **How India Clothed the World: The World of South Asian Textiles, 1500-1850**, Brill, Leiden, pp. 415-435.
4. Rajat Ray (ed.), 1994, *Introduction in Entrepreneurship and Industry in India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, pp.1-69.
5. (*) L. C. Jain, 1929, *Indigenous Credit Instruments and Systems* in M. M. Kudaisya (ed.) **The Oxford Anthology of Business History**, 2011, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 3, pp. 52-61. (**Note:** This reading may be used as a background reading for the section "The Bazaar" in Rajat Ray's *Introduction* (previous reading) for a better understanding of the *Hundi* system).
6. Tirthankar Roy, 2011, *Small Scale Industry*, **The Economic History of India 1857-1947**, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 6, Sections on *Types of Industry, Long-term Pattern of Industrialization, Two Models of Transition in Handicrafts & Handloom Weaving*, pp. 158-171.
7. MD Morris, 1965, *Summary and Conclusions in Emergence of an Industrial Labour Force in India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 11, pp. 198-210.

Unit 5:

1. Gopalan Balachandran, 2016, *Colonial India and the World Economy. c. 1850-1940*, in L. Chaudhary, B. Gupta, T Roy and A. V. Swami (eds.), **A New Economic History of Colonial India**, Routledge, London and New York, Ch.6, pp. 84-99.
2. (*) Irfan Habib, 2006, *Colonialism and the Indian Economy*, **Indian Economy 1858-1914, A People's History of India, vol. 28**, Tulika, Delhi, Ch. 2, Section 2.1 on *The 'Tribute' or Drain* & Section 2.2 on *The Imperialism of Free Trade*, pp. 23-35.
3. K N Chaudhuri, 1982, *Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments*, in Dharma Kumar (ed.) **Cambridge Economic History of India c.1757-c.1970**, vol. 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Chapter 10, Section 7 on *Balance of Payments and Foreign Exchange*, pp. 869-877.
4. David Washbrook, 2012, *The Indian Economy and the British Empire* in Douglas M Peers and Nandini Gooptu (ed.) **India and the British Empire**, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Ch. 3, pp. 44-74.