

Economic History Comprehensive Exam, April 24, 2018
UCLA Department of Economics
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You have three hours to complete the exam. It is open book and open notes. You cannot email/message/text during the exam. Please answer three of the six essay questions. Answers should be typed and sent by email to Chiara Paz (chiara@econ.ucla.edu) by 12pm.

1. The Malthusian theory has long dominated the history of economic growth. State what Malthusian theory is and whether there is empirical evidence that supports this theory. Suppose that you have all the possible data. Which analysis would you perform to test the validity of the Malthusian theory?
2. Why isn't the entire world developed? Examine critically the different theories discussed in class with the aim of extracting what we can learn from it about the sources of underdevelopment in the modern world.
3. The Industrial Revolution has started in Britain. Why not in another European country? Why not in China? Examine the different theories that try to explain it. Which theory/theories do you agree with the most? Why?
4. Understanding the determinants of group loyalty in economic organizations is one of the most important question in economic history. Using evidence from Civil War, examine when Union Army soldiers were willing to sacrifice for the common good. How did the Army deal with betrayal? And what were the costs and benefits of being in a diverse community? What can we learn about the importance of social capital for a society?
5. During the Age of Mass Migration, who was more likely to migrate? How did immigrants perform in the host country? Did immigrants crowd out the native-born and reduce their wages? Based on those answers, did an "American dream" exist for immigrants who came to the US during the Age of Mass Migration?
6. In class, we examined several theories about the causes of the Great Depression. Summarize them and, based on those, discuss whether the Great Depression could happen again.