

## **Economic History Comprehensive Exam, May 2, 2020**

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](mailto:chiara@econ.ucla.edu)) by 5.10pm.

1. The Malthusian theory of economic growth is based on three hypotheses. Please enumerate each. Then, with the help of a graph, describe how the income per capita in equilibrium is determined in this model. Was Malthus right before the Industrial Revolution? Is there evidence that Europe escaped the Malthusian Trap even before the Industrial Revolution? If yes, is this “little divergence” hypothesis consistent with the Malthusian theory?
2. Why Industrial Revolution started in England and not in another European country? Why not in China? Examine the different theories that try to explain it, discussing why you agree/disagree with each of them.
3. 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?
4. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Western world economies started growing rich: this created a wedge in income per capita with the rest of the world. This phenomenon is known as the Great Divergence. Discuss the ultimate causes of the Great Divergence. Why are developing countries not catching up?
5. 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 from this research about the importance of social capital for a modern society?
6. Before the Industrial Revolution, the Caribbean countries were richer than the United States. Why was it the case according to the Engerman and Sokoloff hypothesis? When the “reversal of the fortune” happened and why? Did the Industrial Revolution play a role on the “reversal of the fortune” and why?