

Topics for the lectures in Economic History and Inequality, Autumn 2019

The plan will be updated, complemented, and maybe revised as we proceed.

Lecture 1 The inequality in classical theories: Unequal questions, perceptions, and analysis
Basic questions. The Classical Economists Smith, Ricardo, Malthus, and Marx – and the long run
division of income.

Literature: *Heilbrunner ch 1-4, Allen ch 1-3. Neal and Cameron ch 6-7, Milanovic , Scheidel ch 1*

Lecture 2 The inequality of early industrial capitalism

Industry in transition. Putting out and the factory system. Adam Smith on inequality in the labor
market.

Literature: *Heilbrunner ch 1-4, Allen ch 1-3. Neal and Cameron ch 6-7, Milanovic*

See also: *Kalle Moene, The moral sentiments of the Wealth of Nations,*

(https://www.sv.uio.no/esop/english/publications/articles/2010/Wealth_of_Nations.pdf). *David
Landes (1969): The Unbound Prometheus*

Lecture 3 The inequality of population, labor, and poverty traps

What is Malthusian poverty traps? How did European countries escape the traps? The role of the
black death, wars, and other big changes.

Literature: *Allen ch 2, Heilbrunner ch IV, Voiglander and Voth (Gifts of Mars..), Voiglander and Voth
(Malthusian dynamism), Neal and Cameron ch 4-5.*

Lecture 4 The inequality of assets

The initial accumulation and the enclosure movement. Inequality and privatization. Landownership
and histories of land reforms

Literature: *Scheidel ch 4*

Lecture 5 The inequality of the industrial revolution

The process of creative destruction. Real wages. Effort. Why Europe and not China? Why England and
not France.

Literature: *Allen ch 2-3, Neal ch 7, Allen: The industrial revolution in miniature.*

Heilbrunner ch vi and xi

See also:

Lecture 6 Inequality and the process of creative destruction

Social and Economic Implications of the industrial revolution. Inequality of real competition. Leveling of ideal competition. Ricardo and the machine breakers – and beyond. The winners take it all. Unequal development. The history of structuralism.

Literature: *Heilbrunner ch iv-vi, Allen* See also: Thomsen, the making of the English working class

Lecture 7 Inequality, social reforms – and the welfare state

Exploitation, rents and social reformers. The gilded age. Smith, Ricardo and the marginalists. Ground rents and policy. Taxation – Henry, George, Thomas Pain. Political and economic entrepreneurs. Inequality and the rise of the welfare state. The great compression in the US. Equality multipliers.

Lecture 8 The inequality and conflict

The uneven development of capitalism. The world crisis of 1929. Keynes versus Hayek versus Schumpeter. Authoritarian rule vs social reforms. Inequality of total war and civil war.

Literature: Heilbrunner ch ix, x; Sciedel ch 5

Lecture 9 Inequality and alternative modes of production

Colonies, slavery and the slave trade The history of good and bad institutions. Why has Latin America so much inequality and Africa so much poverty? Do China and India diverge?

Literature: Allen ch,

Lecture 10 The inequality of gender in historical perspective

Lecture 12 Inequality and society models

Reinforcement mechanisms. Divergence. Convergence