

Part III

BEYOND SMITH AND MALTHUS:
FROM ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS TO SUSTAINED
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Questions

1. What are “*Quasi-Malthusian Problems*” and what are the larger ecological problems faced? (211-212, 215-242) (Skip India)
2. What are a) **common patterns** and b) **limitations** of “*Smithian-Solutions*”? (242-263) (also read p.20 paragraph on ch.5)
3. How did the New World contribute to Western Europe’s economic path? (264-283)
4. “*Since I have argued repeatedly that without the windfalls discussed here, Europe too could have been forced down a much more labor intensive development path*” How did each country evolve into the 19th century industrial age and how was Europe unique? (283-296)

1. What are “*Quasi-Malthusian Problems*” and what are the larger ecological problems faced? (211-212, 215-242) (Skip India)

Sub-questions:

- What were the consumption patterns?
- How were subsistence resources (i.e. Food, fiber, building materials, fuel) produced?
- How did labor and capital (i.e. bound labor, transport, money) affect the production of subsistence resources?

Suggestion:

- Split into various parts. Western Europe (215-225) China (Lower Yangzi, Lingnan, North China 225-238) and Round-up (238-242)

2. What are a) **common patterns** and b) **limitations** of “*Smithian-Solutions*”? (242-263) (read p.20 paragraph on ch.5)

Sub-questions:

- What are “the forces that caused core-periphery exchange within the Old World to plateau” (i.e., the forces that caused trade between core and periphery in Eurasia to flatten, or stop growing)?
- Explain Europe’s institutional forces that “prolonged export orientation and decreased the potential for the sort of import substitution that we saw in east Asian peripheries” and how they posed “different problems for western Europe”

Suggestion:

Draw diagrams that show core and periphery relationships

3. From Introduction p34: “Thus, chapter 6 locates the significance of the Atlantic trade not in terms of financial profits and capital accumulation, nor in terms of demand for manufactures-which Europe could have generated enough of at home- but in terms of how much they relieved the strain on Europe’s supply of what was truly scarce: land and energy” How did the New World contribute to Western Europe’s unique economic path? (283-296)

Sub-questions:

- What were “the unique arrangements of Caribbean plantations” that allowed Europe to escape these forces?
- What were “the mercantilist policies throughout the New World” that allowed Europe to benefit from these forces?

4. *“Since I have argued repeatedly that without the windfalls discussed here, Europe too could have been forced down a much more labor intensive development path”* How did each country evolve into the 19th century industrial age and how was Europe unique? (283-296)

Sub-questions:

- How did the relationship between England and US evolve in the 19th century?
- How were China and Japan in the early 19th century? (Despite China’s slowing population growth and Japan’s plateau)

Bonus question:

- Ctrl-F *“Coercion, Coercive, Coerced”*. From page 23 in the Introduction: *“Thus, a combination of inventiveness, markets, coercion, and fortunate global conjunctures produced a breakthrough in the Atlantic world...”* Specify the context of the coercion(s). To what extent did coercion contribute to Western Europe’s “breakthrough”?