Diseases and Long-Run Economic Growth
Robert A. McGuire and Philip R. P. Coelho

in Parasites, Pathogens, and Progress: Diseases and Economic Development
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: August 2013
Item type: chapter

This chapter explores the relationship between economic progress to population and pathogens. It explains the role of infectious diseases over time using a model of long-run economic development that contains cycles, of both “virtuous” and “vicious.” The chapter also discusses the alternative rationalizations of long-run economic growth based on the insights of Adam Smith and Thomas Malthus. It then emphasizes the influence of pathogens by combining Malthusian and Smithian principles to create an explanation of long-run economic growth that is in accordance with science, history, and economic principles. The chapter posits a virtuous economic cycle offset by a vicious biological cycle. It also attributes the long-run economic development to the rising population, which resulted in significantly increased markets.

Evidence on the Spread of Diseases in Nineteenth-Century America
Robert A. McGuire and Philip R. P. Coelho

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Published in print: 2011 Published Online: August 2013
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This chapter presents the biomedical and historical proofs that population growth, economic growth, and other developments influenced the spread of diseases, increased mortality and morbidity, and long-run American economic growth during the nineteenth century. Data are gathered from the population growth, the population density and urbanization, the developments in transportation related to population growth.
changes, and the prevalence of infectious diseases across states and time. The chapter focuses on how the nineteenth-century data on the impact of diseases remained consistent with that of the past centuries. It also presents proofs on how the economic development in the nineteenth-century America became consistent with the disease and population model of economic growth, and similar to that of the past as it paved the way for the spread and perpetuation of pathogens throughout most of the century.