The 1962 Birkelbach report of the European Parliament declared that only those states that guaranteed truly democratic practices and respect for human rights and fundamental liberties would be admitted into the Community. This political requirement was addressed to the South European dictatorships, and had an important influence on political events in these countries, to which the European Community represented, thus, a form of political conditionality; this ‘conditioning’ required monitoring. The European Union 1993 summit in Copenhagen opened the door to membership to the new regimes in the East if political and economic conditions, later ratified by the Amsterdam Treaty in 1997, were fulfilled: the political conditions referred to democracy, the respect of minorities and the rule of law; the economic ones, to a market economy, an independent financial sector and macroeconomic stability. The Commission submitted regular reports on the fulfilment by each candidate country of such conditions. The monitoring, however, described states of affairs while not explaining their causes. This chapter examines these two periods of regime change in Southern and Central Eastern Europe, reviewing (with empirical evidence), arguments about economic development, regimes and political institutions; the purpose is to understand better the political and economic transformations that went on in what was the southern and eastern periphery of Europe.
This chapter examines the economic conditions and forces that affected capital formation and economic development in Korea prior to its opening to the outside world in the mid-1870s. It examines the underdeveloped and essentially static Korean economy of the traditional period in terms of per capita income, aggregate GDP, and economic structure. The chapter also investigates the reasons for the underdevelopment of Korea's in terms of capital endowment; the propensities to work, produce, invest, save, and consume; entrepreneurship; and the role of the Korean government.

Understanding the Nationalism—Social Policy Nexus

Chapter 1 considers the connection between nationalism and social policy in analytical terms. The first section discusses nationalism and social policy by making conceptual distinctions and presenting working definitions of key concepts used through the book. The second section formulates six theoretical claims about the relationship between sub-state nationalism and social policy. The third section provides analytical considerations for our empirical chapters as it stresses the role of several factors in conditioning the meshing of nationalism and social policy: political ideology, especially the left-right dichotomy; evolving territorial patterns of economic inequality; and the structuring role of political institutions. The fourth section offers a few remarks about the place of globalization in our comparative analysis. The chapter concludes with a brief outline of the methodological approach guiding our comparative analysis.
This book shows how analysis of past experiences contributes to a better understanding of present-day economic conditions; chapters offer important insights into major challenges that will occupy the attention of policy makers in the coming decades. The seventeen chapters are organised around three major themes, the first of which is the changing constellation of forces sustaining long-run economic growth in market economies. The second major theme concerns the contemporary challenges posed by transitions in economic and political regimes, and by ideologies that represent legacies from past economic conditions that still affect policy responses to new ‘crises’. The third theme is modern economic growth’s diverse implications for human economic welfare — in terms of economic security, nutritional and health status, and old age support — and the institutional mechanisms communities have developed to cope with the risks that individuals are exposed to by the concomitants of rising prosperity.

Party Systems and Leftist Governments’ Economic Policies
Gustavo Flores-Macías

in After Neoliberalism?: The Left and Economic Reforms in Latin America

Chapter 3 accounts for the different factors behind variation in leftist governments’ economic policies. First, it advances an explanation of how the type of leftist economic reforms is best explained by the degree to which the party system is institutionalized. In doing so, this chapter develops the causal logic behind the relationship between party system institutionalization and economic policy changes. It then offers a macro-level test of the logic and alternative explanations drawing on empirical evidence. Chapter 3 finds that centripetal dynamics characteristic of institutionalized party systems make the preservation of the status quo more likely. This is due to differences in the type of candidate likely to reach power and parties’ ability to influence the executive’s policies. This finding refines institutionalist explanations based on fragmentation and polarization and challenges accounts based on resource dependence,
economic conditions, interest groups, executive power, and depth of neoliberalism.

Living Standards in Liaoning, 1749–1909: Evidence from Demographic Outcomes
James Z. Lee and Cameron D. Campbell

To assess trends in the standard of living in Liaoning province in north-east China during the nineteenth century, the secular change in demographic rates and their sensitivity to economic conditions are examined. The findings show that marital fertility rose, child mortality fell and some men were able to marry much earlier. Fertility became less sensitive to grain prices, suggesting a decline in the vulnerability of rural populations to economic shocks. Based on these trends, the conclusion can be drawn that the standard of living in Liaoning rose during the nineteenth century. While these results may not be generalized to China as a whole, they do raise the possibility of variation between and within regions of China in trends in living standards during the nineteenth century.

Highly Institutionalized Party System
Gustavo Flores-Macías

Chapter 6 argues that the highly institutionalized party system was crucial in accounting for the pro-market economic policies of Ricardo Lagos’s leftist government in Chile. It finds that moderate reforms in that country are the consequence of both the temperance instilled in the candidates through the process of accommodation and consensus-building in party politics, as well as the ability of the different forces represented in Congress to shape and moderate economic policy. Drawing on evidence from such initiatives as labor and tax reforms, this chapter shows how these proposed changes were watered down to be
acceptable to a working majority in the legislature. Furthermore, Chile’s solid economic performance and deep neoliberal reforms discouraged any drastic changes to the model inherited from the military dictatorship. Other factors, including executive powers, natural resources, and organized labor do not play a significant role in explaining Chile’s general adherence to pro-market policies.

Standards of Demesne Farm Management in England
David Stone

in Decision-Making in Medieval Agriculture
Published in print: 2005 Published Online: January 2010
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199247769.003.0007

This chapter examines demesne management in medieval England generally and suggests that efficiency was dependent upon person, period, and place. It highlights the general competency of demesne management on other manors before the Black Death, and argues that management became more efficient around 1300 as economic conditions deteriorated and levels of taxation rose, and that remote commercial manors were the most efficient of all. The chapter goes on to examine standards of demesne management after the Black Death, arguing that the great estates generally experienced a managerial crisis as the difficulties of managing a large farm increased and as other opportunities for skilled reeves became plentiful and available. Not only did this hasten the decision to lease demesnes on such estates, but it implies that smaller estates and farms, which were individually managed by their landlords or tenant farmers, did not experience the same degree of economic difficulty.

Increased Income Inequality in OECD Countries and the Redistributive Impact of the Government Budget
Anthony B. Atkinson

in Inequality Growth and Poverty in an Era of Liberalization and Globalization
Published in print: 2004 Published Online: August 2004
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/0199271410.003.0009

The recent rise in inequality in the distribution of disposable income in many, although not all, countries has led to a search for explanations, particularly since for much of the postwar period falling income inequality
has been the norm. In the OECD countries, on which this chapter concentrates, the cause has been identified as rising wage dispersion, coupled with persistent unemployment in Europe. However, a number of factors need to be brought into any explanation of the extent and timing of changes in income distribution, including movements in factor shares, changes in real interest rates, and the impact of the government budget. This chapter focusses on the last of these. It has five sections: Introduction; Redistributive Impact of the Government Budget in selected OECD countries—a review of the statistical evidence from five OECD countries where a time series of studies covering the 1980s and the 1990s is available (UK, Canada, West Germany, Finland, Sweden; The Government Budget in Principle and Policy Reaction to Demographic Shifts—a simple framework within which the distributional implications of different government policy responses to changes in economic conditions and the different elements influencing the choice of response are explored; Policy Changes in Redistributive Taxes and Transfers: Case Studies of Unemployment Benefit and Personal Taxation—in the five European countries already studied, and in the US; and Summary of Conclusions.

Taking Stock: Scotland at the End of the Seventeenth Century
Christopher A. Whatley

in Anglo-Scottish Relations from 1603 to 1900

This chapter provides a summary of the straits in which Scotland found itself in the opening years of the eighteenth century. It also presents the strengths and weaknesses of Scotland's economic position around the beginning of the reign of Queen Anne. It concludes by drawing some connections between economic conditions and the incorporating union. It is intended to argue that by the end of the century the achievements of the previous eight or nine decades in Scotland were being undermined by the country's losing struggle to maintain its position as a credible political entity. The consequences of the deeply troubled circumstances in which the Scots found themselves at the start of the reign of Queen Anne were profound. The Scots had to surrender their parliamentary independence, but not all that they valued as distinctively Scottish institutions and culture, and accede to the British incorporating union.
A Labouring Poet
Richard Greene

in Mary Leapor: A Study in Eighteenth Century Women's Poetry

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Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198119883.003.0003
Item type: chapter

Despite the significant number of labouring poets who published throughout the century, Elizabeth Hands assumed that her social position would constitute an obstacle to the acceptance of her work. Indeed, while she produced some poems of distinct merit, she, like most labouring poets of her time, had been forgotten until the 1980s. Mary Leapor has, of course, fared somewhat better than Hands. Her presence in anthologies and her occasional mention in critical works have sustained a small reputation on the periphery of eighteenth-century literature. This chapter considers Leapor's work against the background of her economic conditions as a kitchen-maid and the daughter of an agricultural craftsman. It is argued that Leapor's work contributes to a fairly broad movement among labouring-class poets to provide an accurate account of work and social conditions in their time.

Social and Economic Factors, 1878–1944
R. J. Crampton

in Bulgaria

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Item type: chapter

From the liberation to the end of the Second World War, Bulgaria saw growth without structural change. From 1878 to 1944, a number of traditional practices disappeared, but the fundamental nature of both society and the economy were little altered: Bulgaria remained predominantly rural; its society rested on the village and the family; its agriculture was almost entirely the preserve of the small peasant proprietor; and its exports, at least in times of peace, were dominated by grain. Its industries grew, but they remained closely linked to agriculture, and they continued to be dominated not by large factories but by small workshops that employed only a handful of workers. There was slow but organic change. From 1944 to the early 1990s there was to be rapid but artificial change as socialist planning transformed both society and the economy through the collectivization of the land, rapid urbanization, and the development of a heavy industrial base.
This chapter attempts to map out the ‘geography of mental deficiency’ in Great Britain during the 1930s. It analyses three interrelated elements: the perceptions of the geographical location and distribution of mental deficiency, the relationship between reported levels and the ecology of mental deficiency, and the geography of local authority provision. This chapter shows that the problem of mental deficiency varied according to the geography of social and economic conditions, the administrative difficulties of establishing a local administration, and the local resources to provide services.

Belgium, 1795–1914
Patricia Penn Hilden

This chapter examines the social and economic conditions in Belgium during the period from 1795 to 1914. It explains that when the Belgian territory was annexed by France in 1795 it was already well on its way to the industrial prosperity it would enjoy throughout most of the 19th century. The French government also enlarged Belgian territory and it offered a vast new market of about forty million potential consumers to Belgian producers.

Restoration Sicily: Poverty, Protest, and Power, 1815–1849
Lucy Riall

This chapter examines the social and economic conditions in Sicily and the Unification of Italy: Liberal Policy and Local Power, 1859-1866

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This chapter examines the economic and political conditions in Sicily upon the return of the Bourbon government from exile during the period from 1815 to 1849. In 1815, the Bourbon government declared its intention of upholding the innovations of the so-called decennio francese. After this, the transition from feudal monarchy to modern bureaucratic state in Sicily took place very rapidly. However, the problems of maintaining a regular administration system in Sicily persisted and intensified during the revolutions of 1820 and 1848–9.

Economic Trends and their Implications
Alison Sharrock

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Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198277125.003.0003

This chapter examines the economic trends during the first 40 years of the State of Israel and their implications for the economic situation of Arab minority in the state. During this period, the general economic situation of the Arabs changed because of impoverishment and the break in relations with Arab states. The majority Jewish sector dominated key economic positions and the Arab sector remained largely dependent on them. In the 1980s, relative employment rose in the Arab sector, though not as much as that of the Jewish population. This chapter concludes that in the absence of economic growth, the weaker groups among the Arabs and part of the Jewish population suffered.

Social Science in Epidemiology
Mervyn Susser and Zena Stein

in Eras in Epidemiology: The Evolution of Ideas
Published in print: 2009 Published Online: September 2009
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195300666.003.0020

This chapter discusses social science in epidemiology. During much of the later 20th century in the United States, the study of effects of societal and economic conditions on health was seldom in the mainstream of epidemiology. In the 1990s, however, such issues regained the attention of the discipline. The practice of research in social epidemiology, both historically and in the present has been a fundamentally interdisciplinary undertaking that balances the inputs of
medicine, sociology, anthropology, economics, demography, and other
social sciences. Perspectives from social epidemiology have played a
considerable role in pressing epidemiologists of all kinds to consider how
social contexts influence health outcomes, and to examine in turn the
potential for societal interventions to modify or reduce morbidity and
mortality.

The Formation of Post-Roman Society
Peter Sarris

in Empires of Faith: The Fall of Rome to the Rise of Islam, 500-700
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: Publisher: Oxford University Press
January 2012 DOI: 10.1093/
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines in greater detail the barbarian invasions of the
fifth century, looking at evidence for the size of invading armies and
the impact of the invasions on Roman provincial society. The factors
that shaped and fashioned ‘barbarian’ identity are examined, and
emphasis is placed on the extent to which co-operative and symbiotic
relations gradually emerged between the leaders of the barbarians and
members of the provincial Roman aristocracies. The implications of this
development for members of the peasantry are then examined, and
emphasis is placed on the impact of the fading away of the Roman state
on economic and monetary conditions.

P. S. Atiyah

in The Rise and Fall of Freedom of Contract
Published in print: 1985 Published Online: Publisher: Oxford University Press
March 2012 DOI: 10.1093/
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines changes in the political and economic conditions
in England during the period from 1870 to 1970 and the implications
of these changes for freedom of contract. During this period, England
became immeasurably richer than it had been previously and the
consumer society arrived. This gave rise to a larger number of
corporations, and trade unions acquired more power over individuals
and the government. On the political side, central government became
a vast bureaucracy and there was a great proliferation in the variety of
government's manifestations in society.
'Cette misérable contrée’: The Corbières in the 1780s

Peter McPhee

in Revolution and Environment in Southern France: Peasants, Lords, and Murder in the Corbières 1780–1830

This chapter describes social, economic, and political conditions in the Corbières region of France during the 1870s. Though the Corbières had belonged to the kingdom of France since the 13th century, it remained a land of Occitan culture and language. This region was linked to a vigorous and ancient textile industry centred on Carcassonne. Its most precious resource was wood from the garrigues, which was a fiercely protected community necessity. This resource was to be the cause of conflicts during the late 18th to the early 19th century.