

## Summaries of articles

### ***Prospects and Limits of the Proto-industrial Model: A First Assessment***

P. DEYON

*The International Congress of Economic History which took place in Budapest endeavored to present a survey of research inspired by the theory of proto-industrialization. A number of studies confirm F. Mendel's theories but propose a wider definition of the concept, pointing out that the agricultural regions affected by the diffusion of rural industry vary in their means of production, social structure and their laws of succession. Other studies emphasize the causes of industrialization and highlight the role of economic domination between countries. Still others attempt to apply the model to developing Asian Countries.*

*One of the most controversial issues concerns the social and demographic aspect of proto-industrialization. It undoubtedly played a part in the population growth of 18th century Europe, but its extent is difficult to measure as it depends on the age of the population, division of labour between sexes, migratory shifts and the conscious reaction of the working class to economic and structural fluctuations in industry.*

*Thus the very abundance of information calls for a clearer distinction between proto-industrialization and the Flemish model analyzed by Mendels which represents only one of its favoured aspects.*

*The initial model does, however, have three essential merits. It emphasizes the solidarity between agricultural and manufacturing sectors in the process of development. Secondly, it demonstrates that an economic analysis must always take into account demographic data relative to Man, the most important of all production factors. Thirdly, it is conducive to a comparative research, especially concerning the economy of development.*

### ***Proto-industrialization, Proto-industry and De-industrialization: An Economic Analysis***

S. P. S. HO

*The paper develops a simple micro-economic model of the semi-subsistence family-farm and uses it to analyze the proto-industrialization and de-industrialization processes. It claims that regional proto-industrialization can be understood largely in terms*

*of regional differences in population pressure, the commercialization of agriculture, and the development of national and international markets. But proto-industry was unable to compete with the more productive modern factories. Thus, the industrial revolution, which introduced modern factories only in certain regions, is seen as one possible cause of regional de-industrialization.*

***The Proto-industrial Origins of a Developed Area:  
Northern Italy (1800-1880)***

A. DEWERPE

*The creation of the Italian « Industrial Triangle » stemmed from the steady growth of rural areas which coincided with the localization of a rural industry intended for the market. This industry, concentrated in the Piedmont Alpine region, was the result of both work possibilities opened to the peasant population and the international markets' demand for products, namely for raw and semi-fine silk. Because of the size of the industry's income, the division of labour which ensued from it and the high population density of the area, this type of labour market was well suited to the social needs of the proto-workers of Northern Italy. Concerning capital, the peripheral position of the peninsula in the international division of labour necessitated a slow accumulation of capital in the rural areas which was reinforced by the entrepreneurs' rejection of the factory system. But wherever capital existed and developed, it did not affect the basic socio-economic stability of the proto-industrial communities, a phenomenon which explains both the success and limits of the transition towards the second phase of industrialization.*

***The Flanders' Case: Social Evolution and Demographic  
Changes in the 17th and 18th Centuries***

Ch. VANDENBROEKE

*Since the 16th and 17th centuries few areas developed a rural industry—and in particular a linen industry—as spectacularly as Flanders. The area thus calls for extensive studies of its demographic development and its relationship to social and economic history. It is undeniable that both the beginning and the end of the proto-industrial period show a pauperization of the population. But these facts do not apply at all to the intermediate period of the 18th century when the standard of living of the rural population was temporarily very high, as was the case in the 14th and 15th centuries.*

*A finer distinction of the demographic components should also be made. The industrialized areas in the south and center of Flanders did not have an excessively high birth, marriage or death rate. On the other hand, there does appear to have been a growth in migration.*

***Wages and Marriage Age in Flanders,  
17th-18th Centuries***

F. MENDELS

*A critical examination of the tables and graphs presented by Vandembroeke (see*

above) and the introduction of additional data shows that eighteenth-century proto-industrialization was far from being a "golden age" for the Flemish peasant-weaver. It represented on the contrary a period of decline in his standard of living. As early as the second quarter of that century, Flanders had become, in comparison with neighbouring countries, a cheap labor area. On the basis of extant monographic studies, one had earlier believed that the marriage age had declined in the villages with growing industry in the eighteenth century. Recent research concerning Flemish agricultural and industrial villages confirms this older view in 70 to 79 percent of the cases, depending on the criterion that is used in performing the test. On the basis of the experience of the area around Deinze, one can also reject Vandenbroeke's hypothesis that a greater rate of immigration could account for the more rapid population growth of industrial villages.

### ***Textile Production in Traditional China***

J. CHAO

A four-sector theoretical model explains the choice and coexistence of production institutions in a pre-industrial economy. The four sectors are latifundia farms with hired hands, tenant farming on rented land, rural subsidiary handicraft production, and handicraft factories. The history of the Chinese silk and cotton industries illustrates this model and confirms its main features. The superiority of family production rests in the last analysis of the low cost of labor in home industry, which is the consequence of overpopulation.

### ***From Rural Industries to Proto-industrialization: A New Perspective***

F. MENDELS

The development of the concept of proto-industrialization has renewed historians' interest in rural industries. The existence and importance of these industries had been known for a long time, but the application of the "modernization" framework to historical studies had removed them from the stage for a while. Definitions must be distinguished from hypotheses. Even though the growth of rural industry is at the heart of proto-industrialization, the definition of the concept also includes a number of allied phenomena, all of which are observable within the spatial framework of the region. As for the hypotheses, the relationship between rural industry and demographic change must surely be their fundamental and most novel aspect. Despite what some recent critics have asserted, the latest empirical studies mostly confirm the existence of a correlation, imperfect but significant, between rural industry and demographic expansion by way of nuptiality.

### ***The Industrialization and its Mobilities (1836-1936)***

P. BOURDELAIS

The technical and intellectual tools now available to historians have brought about a new multi-dimensional approach to studies of mobility related to French industrializa-

tion in the 19th and 20th centuries. Their objective is to examine the major aspects of shifts from rural to industrial and urban activities.

*Le Creusot and its surroundings constitute the territorial sample for this study. Because of the system of data organization, the computerized analysis of the various characteristics—whether they be demographic, professional, educational or medical in nature—lead to a clear observation of changes brought about by immigration in towns, in the family make-up, in the formation and renewal of the active population of an industrial town, and to a definition of the distribution and diffusion of disease. An in-depth analysis of social mobility processes throughout four generations is also made possible through this research.*

***The Multi-nationalization of the French Electrical Industry, 1880-1931 : Causes and Practices of Dependence***

A. BRODER

*At the beginning of the 1880's, France appeared both economically and scientifically equipped to seize the opportunities offered by the newborn electrical industry. Half a century later, she was to lag far behind the U.S., Germany, the U.K. and even in some sectors Switzerland, and was responsible for only 6 % of world production.*

*This article analyses the reasons for this development and surveys the decline of the French economy until the turn of the century, the lack of risk capital and the deterioration of urbanization. These combined factors created a small undynamic market which encouraged the American manufacturers to turn from France to Germany for their continental contact.*

*The rapid technical and industrial expansion of the latter as well as their intersecting interests (GEC/AEG and Westinghouse/Siemens and the national links) reinforced their French subsidiaries and made the reconquest of the national market, not to mention the export trade, by the new French industry an impossible task.*

*After the First World War the French lost all hope of renewing their ties with American manufacturers. Reinforced international cartellization, short-sighted government policies (phone, radio...) and the excellent reputation of German products, prevented the French industry in the 1920's from establishing a firm international position in the world market.*

***Unemployment and Redundancy. The Crisis of the Lorraine Steel Industry: Longwy, 1978-1979***

Ch. DE MONTLIBERT

*The re-organisation of the steel industry in 1978 and 1979 was not simply an economic operation designed to re-establish profit margins, the social consequences have been numerous and deeply felt in Longwy (an important French steel producing town), whose whole foreseeable future has been thrown into uncertainty. The steel-workers' lack of qualifications for other work—their own skills being too specific—has been all the harder to accept because they had been relatively well protected from the effects of general competition in the job market; emigration to other regions is also very much opposed because it goes against a strong attachment to the region resulting from management strategies designed to encourage the implantation of the labour force and*

*from the fight for the right to settle led by the metalworkers, who were often immigrants.*

*But the crisis is also a product of the multiple social transformations which preceded it and made the continuing of the existing systems of regulation more and more impracticable. At the root of these changes was the changeover from a society of overt dependence based on personalised authority and clear divisions between social groups to a more composite society working through a more diffuse and indirect authority. This change is the more difficult to understand and accept for the fact that, faced with the growing diversification of different social groupings, institutions are less and less able to unify the representation of their interests and co-ordinate their practices.*