

The French economy and the state: syllabus

Description

The role of the state has returned as a major issue in today's political debate. It has been at the top of political economists' agenda for over a generation. This course aims at clarifying a number of key facts on the place and functions of the modern state in developed countries taking France as an case-study. It adopts a 'genealogical' approach tracing the successive developments of the French state over the last 200 years in order to highlight the logic of today's functions and actions and their determinants and *raison d'être*.

Outline

Attendance to lectures is mandatory

1. The modern state in theory and practice
2. The French state in international perspective
3. Colbertism, the Ancien regime and the Revolution
4. The liberal state
5. Free trade and protectionism
6. The balance sheet of colonialism
7. The economy of war
8. The managed economy
9. The rise of the bureaucracy
10. The provident state and Industrial policy
11. From capitalism to socialism and back?
12. What European integration changed

Exams

- one mid-term exam: 20 questions (multiple-choice)
- final exam: 40 questions (multiple-choice)

Readings

For beginners:

go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of_France

Brush up on current affairs:

watch: BBC documentary <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36152571>

Mandatory:

Dormois, Jean-Pierre, *The French economy in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Additional material (posted on moodle):

Dormois, Jean-Pierre, "France: The idiosyncrasies of '*Volontarisme*'" in Giovanni Federico & James Foreman-Peck (eds.), *European Industrial Policy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 58-97.

Dormois, Jean-Pierre, "The significance of the French colonial empire for French economic development, (1815-1960)", *Revista de Historia Económica*, Vol. 18 No.2 (1998), p. 323-49.

Optional: (available in university library or ask your lecturer)

Baum, Warren C. (1958), *The French Economy and the State*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Hall, Peter A. (1986), *Governing the Economy. The Politics of state intervention in Britain and France*, New York, Oxford University Press.

Kuisel, Robert (1981), *Capitalism and the State in Modern France. Renovation and Economic Management in the 20th Century*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Rosanvallon, Pierre, *L'Etat en France de 1789 à nos jours* (Paris, Seuil, 1991)