The Economic Development of Germany, 1800-1914
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This course provides an introduction to the development of the German economy during its transition from a ‘less developed country’ (c. 1800) to a ‘modern industrialized economy’ (by c. 1914). It does not assume any prior knowledge of German history or development economics. The course is organized around the following themes:

1. Germany as a ‘less developed economy’
2. Agricultural development
3. Trade policy and the first phase of German industrialization
4. Finance and German industrialization
5. Trade policy and the second phase of German industrialization
6. Industrial organization and monopoly
7. Technology, heavy industry, and the tariff-cartel system
8. Population and consumption

The aims of this course are to introduce the main debates, conceptual tools, and empirical findings relevant to understanding the first German ‘economic miracle’. By the end of this course, participants should have acquired a basic knowledge and understanding of the following:

- society, economy, institutions, and government in German-speaking Central Europe before 1800, comparisons with modern LDCs
- pre-modern rural economic institutions in Germany, the reforms after 1808, and the consequences for German agricultural development
- changes in trade policy in Germany 1800-1914, economic effects of the 1834 Customs Union and protectionism after 1879, comparisons of the trade policies of nineteenth-century Germany and modern LDCs
- German financial development, the role of the ‘universal banks’
- pace and nature of German industrial growth, role of industrial concentration
- technological change, role of heavy industry, and the tariff-cartel system
- changes in German demographic indices 1750-1914, contribution of population growth to economic development, determinants of fertility and mortality decline
- general lessons to be learned from the German experience for analysing economic development more generally

Basic books:

Tipton, F. (2003). History of modern Germany since 1815.