The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain

This is a definitive new account of Britain's economic evolution from a backwater of Europe in 1270 to the hub of the global economy in 1870. A team of leading economic historians reconstruct Britain's national accounts for the first time right back into the thirteenth century to show what really happened quantitatively during the centuries leading up to the Industrial Revolution. Contrary to traditional views of the earlier period as one of Malthusian stagnation, they reveal how the transition to modern economic growth built on the earlier foundations of a persistent upward trend in GDP per capita which doubled between 1270 and 1700. Featuring comprehensive estimates of population, land use, agricultural production, industrial and service-sector production and GDP per capita, as well as analysis of their implications, this will be an essential reference for anyone interested in British economic history and the origins of modern economic growth more generally.

An Economic History of London 1800-1914

This book considers the impact of slavery and Atlantic trade on British economic development in the generations between the restoration of the Stuart monarchy and the era of the Younger Pitt. During this period Britain's trade became 'Americanised' and industrialisation began to occur in the domestic economy. The slave trade and the broader patterns of Atlantic commerce contributed important dimensions of British economic growth although they were more significant for their indirect, qualitative contribution than for direct quantitative gains. Kenneth Morgan investigates five key areas within the topic that have been subject to historical debate: the profits of the slave trade; slavery, capital accumulation and British economic development; exports and transatlantic markets; the role of business institutions; and the contribution of Atlantic trade to the growth of British ports. This stimulating and accessible book provides essential reading for students of slavery and the slave trade, and British economic history.

Was the Thatcher Experiment Worth It?

In the 1980s and 1990s successive United Kingdom governments enacted a series of reforms to establish a more market-oriented economy, closer to the American model and further away from its Western European competitors. Today, the United Kingdom is one of the least regulated economies in the world, marked by transformed welfare and industrial relations systems and broad privatization. Virtually every industry and government program has been affected by the reforms, from hospitals and schools to labor unions and jobless benefit programs. Seeking a Premier Economy focuses on the labor and product market reforms that directly impacted productivity, employment, and inequality. The questions asked are
provocative: How did the United Kingdom manage to stave off falling earnings for lower paid workers? What role did the reforms play in rising income inequality and trends in poverty? At the same time, what reforms also contributed to reduced unemployment and the accelerated growth of real wages? The comparative microeconomic approach of this book yields the most credible evaluation possible, focusing on closely associated outcomes of particular reforms for individuals, firms, and sectors.

Seeking a Premier Economy

Forging Ahead, Falling Behind and Fighting Back

Based on articles first published in Refresh (Recent Findings in Economic and Social History) this is the second volume in the highly successful New Directions in Economic and Social History which focuses on important and controversial issues in British history during the last three centuries. It discusses recent work showing how new archival material, new methods of analysis and new approaches have changed interpretations. The volume will enable teachers, lecturers and students to keep abreast of current advances in research.

Britain's Economic Growth 1920-1966

First published in 1978, Professor O'Brien’s Economic Growth in Britain and France 1780-1914 is an original and pioneering exercise in comparative and quantitative economic history. It finds a controversial place in the debate on the question of French retardation in the 19th century and as a brave and important contribution towards the understanding of economic growth in Western Europe. The author attempts to comprehend and evaluate the economic performance of France through explicit comparisons with Britain, while considering British economic history from a French perspective. Challenging the orthodox view that France lagged behind Britain in economic terms, the book argues that there were two paths of economic growth to the 20th century, with France’s path seen as a more humane and no less efficient transition to industrial society.

British Economic Development in South East Asia, 1880-1939

New Directions in Economic and Social History

British Economic Development in South East Asia, 1880 - 1939

In recent years, traditional views of a rapidly growing British economy between 1700 and 1850 have been overturned by convincing new research indicating that British economic growth was, in fact, relatively slow during much of the so-called industrial "revolution". This revisionist work, which is certain to profoundly affect any future scholarship on the subject, is the first to give a fully documented account of the new picture of British economic development that has recently emerged. Bringing together the results of the latest research, Crafts explores how the new growth estimates hold vital implications for our understanding of productivity, living standards, structural change, and international trade in 18th- and 19th-century Britain.

The Enlightened Economy

Highlights the interactions between institutions and policy choices, as well as the importance of historical constraints on Britain’s relative economic decline.

The People and the British Economy, 1830-1914

Beginning at the time of the revolution in 1688, and ending in the 1950s, this book sets out to establish the main quantitative features of the British economy over as long a period as available statistics permit. Topics include changes in the population structure, industrial structure and more.

British Economic Growth 1760-1913
This celebrated and seminal text examines the industrial revolution, from its genesis in pre-industrial Britain, through its development and into maturity. A chapter-by-chapter analysis explores topics such as economic growth, agriculture, trade finance, labour and transport. First published in 1969, The First Industrial Nation is widely recognised as a classic text for students of the industrial revolution.

British Economic Growth, 1270–1870

"In a vigorous discussion, which goes beyond the standard explanations that credit geographical factors, the role of markets, politics and society, Mokyr argues that the bases of the emergence of modern economic growth in Britain are to be found in what key players knew and believed, and how those convictions affected their economic behaviour. The belief in progress, coupled with the strategies to bring it about led Britain, and eventually most of the western world, into the modern era." "With a remarkably wide range of reference, and covering sectors of the British economy often neglected, this masterful book both synthesizes existing scholarship and provides a wholly new perspective for understanding Britain's economic development in the age of the Industrial Revolution." --Book Jacket.

The Decline of British Economic Power Since 1870

Professor Youngson's book is an unbiased review of Britain's past experience and present difficulties. Few sacred cows are spared. There is no pretence that fundamental problems were resolved at the time of its first publication in 1967. Many economic historians fail in their assessment of Britain's economic prospects as there is a tendency to look only at recent events to explain current problems. Youngson saw that this was short sighted. An economy, like an airliner, cannot suddenly change its course; it is subject to persistent forces and tendencies; it is powerfully affected by what has happened in the recent and sometimes in the not so recent past. Therefore to understand the problems of today we must know something of how persistent they are, and about what solutions have already been tried. This book provides a thorough examination of Britain's economic growth from 1920-1966 and contextualises Britain's situation within its true historical perspective. This book was first published in 1967.

The Growth and Fluctuation of the British Economy, 1790-1850

This book provides a genuinely comparative picture of economic growth in Europe after 1945.

The British Economy 1870–1939

This work represents a documentary sourcebook on British economic development during the postwar years. The author provides a balanced overview of contentious themes relating to the context, dimensions, pace and consequences of Britain's relative economic decline since 1945.

British Economic Growth, 1688-1959

This book was first published in 1981.

The British Economy in Transition

This is the first systematic quantitative account of British economic growth from the thirteenth century to the Industrial Revolution.

British Economic Performance 1945-1975

The issues of growth performance and structural change are critical to an appreciation of British economic development. This new text reviews Britain's growth performance and considers the changing structure of the economy. It also incorporates a discussion of the controversial political issues in this sphere: disindustrialisation, North Sea oil and the environmental cost of economic growth. Against this background, the book analyses the evolution of supply-side policy in the post war years, and speculates on its likely
development in the 21st century.

Disparities in Economic Development since the Industrial Revolution

Why did the industrial revolution take place in eighteenth-century Britain and not elsewhere in Europe or Asia? In this convincing new account Robert Allen argues that the British industrial revolution was a successful response to the global economy of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He shows that in Britain wages were high and capital and energy cheap in comparison to other countries in Europe and Asia. As a result, the breakthrough technologies of the industrial revolution - the steam engine, the cotton mill, and the substitution of coal for wood in metal production - were uniquely profitable to invent and use in Britain. The high wage economy of pre-industrial Britain also fostered industrial development since more people could afford schooling and apprenticeships. It was only when British engineers made these new technologies more cost-effective during the nineteenth century that the industrial revolution would spread around the world.

Forging Ahead, Falling Behind and Fighting Back

Before World War I, the British Admiralty conceived a plan to win rapid victory over Germany-economic warfare on an unprecedented scale. The secret strategy called for the state to exploit Britain's monopolies in banking, communications, and shipping to create an implosion of the world economic system. The plan was never fully implemented.

Slavery, Atlantic Trade and the British Economy, 1660–1800

The impact of slavery and Atlantic trade on British economic development between 1660 and 1800.

The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective

A work of major importance for the economic history of both Europe and North America.

British Economic Development in South East Asia, 1880–1939

Between 1830 and 1914 Britain became the world's major trading nation, carrier of the majority of the world's goods, by far the largest investor overseas, and the centre of the world's financial system. It was an exceptional time in the history of the country; even a hundred years later, many look back to it with nostalgia. This book describes and assesses the reality of what was achieved in those eighty-five years.

Growth and Structural Change

The First Industrial Nation

An examination of attempts at economic regeneration in areas that have experienced decline in 'traditional' industry. Coal, steel, defence, textiles, and the motor industry are discussed by an expert in the area.

Economic Growth in Britain and France 1780-1914 (Routledge Revivals)

In 1800 London was already the largest city in the world, and over the course of the next century its population grew rapidly, reaching over seven million by 1914. Historians have often depicted London after the Industrial Revolution as an industrial backwater that declined into the mass exploitation of labour through 'sweating', dominated by City and merchant interests. This book instead argues that London was a centre of nineteenth-century British economic growth. Modern economic theories of cities are used to explain the causes of metropolitan economic development, and emphasis is placed on the changing role of the metropolis within Britain and the wider world economy. Individual chapters comprehensively survey a wide variety of topics including: population and migration standards of living employment and industry changes in retailing and leisure social welfare and local government post and telecommunications. The evolution of London did not occur on purely free market terms - the supply of urban services is an important component of metropolitan history, particularly in the changing relationship between government and private endeavour. This fascinating history of a remarkable city will appeal to a wide audience.
International Trade and British Economic Growth

This collection focuses on the economic development of the areas of SE Asia with which Britain had a trading relationship. Covering 1880-1939, the economic growth of the region is revealed through a selection of rare primary resources organized thematically with sections dedicated to agriculture, mining, trade, labour, finance and infrastructure.

The Economy of British America, 1607-1789

To what extent has the British economy declined compared to its competitors and what are the underlying reasons for this decline? Nicholas Crafts, one of the world’s foremost economic historians, tackles these questions in a major new account of Britain’s long-run economic performance. He argues that history matters in interpreting current economic performance, because the present is always conditioned by what went before. Bringing together ideas from economic growth theory and varieties of capitalism to endogenous growth and cliometrics, he reveals the microeconomic foundations of Britain's economic performance in terms of the impact of institutional arrangements and policy choices on productivity performance. The book traces Britain’s path from the first Industrial Revolution and global economic primacy through to its subsequent long-term decline, the strengths and weaknesses of the Thatcherite response, and the improvement in relative economic performance that was sustained to the eve of the financial crisis.

The Rise of Commercial Empires

Economic Growth in Europe Since 1945

This collection focuses on the economic development of the areas of SE Asia with which Britain had a trading relationship. Covering 1880-1939, the economic growth of the region is revealed through a selection of rare primary resources organized thematically with sections dedicated to agriculture, mining, trade, labour, finance and infrastructure.

British Economic Growth, 1270-1870

A new edition of the leading textbook on the economic history of Britain since industrialization. Combining the expertise of more than thirty leading historians and economists, Volume 2 tracks the development of the British economy from late nineteenth-century global dominance to its early twenty-first century position as a mid-sized player in an integrated European economy. Each chapter provides a clear guide to the major controversies in the field and students are shown how to connect historical evidence with economic theory and how to apply quantitative methods. The chapters re-examine issues of Britain’s relative economic growth and decline over the ‘long’ twentieth century, setting the British experience within an international context, and benchmark its performance against that of its European and global competitors. Suggestions for further reading are also provided in each chapter, to help students engage thoroughly with the topics being discussed.

British Economic Growth 1856-1973

This collection focuses on the economic development of the areas of SE Asia with which Britain had a trading relationship. Covering 1880-1939, the economic growth of the region is revealed through a selection of rare primary resources organized thematically with sections dedicated to agriculture, mining, trade, labour, finance and infrastructure.

Measuring British Economic Growth

This book explores the relationship between international trade and domestic economic growth in Britain since the eighteenth century. It was during this time that Britain enjoyed first a dominant role in world trade and then, from the outbreak of the First World War, saw its economic strength eclipsed by other emerging international powers. The essays here focus on two central concerns in the history of British economic development in the period; was overseas and colonial trade in the eighteenth century the principal motor of British industrial development? Has the structure of Britain's overseas trade in the
British Economic Growth During The Industrial Revolution

twentieth century been one of the factors contributing to the "decline of the British industrial economy"?

British Economic Development Since 1945

It is commonplace to assume that the twentieth-century British economy has failed, falling from the world's richest industrial country in 1900 to one of the poorest nations of Western Europe in 2000. Manufacturing is inevitably the centre of this failure: British industrial managers cannot organise the proverbial 'knees-up' in a brewery; British workers are idle and greedy; its financial system is uniquely geared to the short term interests of the City rather than of manufacturing; its economic policies are perverse for industry; and its culture is fundamentally anti-industrial. There is a grain of truth in each of these statements, but only a grain. In this book, Alan Booth notes that Britain's living standards have definitely been overtaken, but evidence that Britain has fallen continuously further and further behind its major competitors is thin indeed. Although British manufacturing has been much criticised, it has performed comparatively better than the service sector. The British Economy in the Twentieth Century combines narrative with a conceptual and analytic approach to review British economic performance during the twentieth century in a controlled comparative framework. It looks at key themes, including economic growth and welfare, the working of the labour market, and the performance of entrepreneurs and managers. Alan Booth argues that a careful, balanced assessment (which must embrace the whole century rather than simply the post-war years) does not support the loud and persistent case for systematic failure in British management, labour, institutions, culture and economic policy. Relative decline has been much more modest, patchy and inevitable than commonly believed.

Britain and the Economic Problem of the Cold War

A historical account of the course and causes of British economic growth from the mid-19th century until 1973, with special emphasis on the unparalleled growth after the Second World War.

Slavery, Atlantic Trade and the British Economy, 1660-1800

By the American Revolution, the farmers and city-dwellers of British America had achieved, individually and collectively, considerable prosperity. The nature and extent of that success are still unfolding. In this first comprehensive assessment of where research on pre-revolutionary economy stands, what it seeks to achieve, and how it might best proceed, the authors discuss those areas in which traditional work remains to be done and address new possibilities for a 'new economic history.'

The British Economy in the Twentieth Century

Many accounts of British development since 1945 have attempted to discover why Britain experienced slower rates of economic growth than other Western European countries. In many cases, the explanation for this phenomenon has been attributed to the high level of defence spending that successive British post-war governments adhered to. Yet is it fair to assume that Britain's relative economic decline could have been prevented if policy makers had not spent so much on defence? Examining aspects of the political economy and economic impact of British defence expenditure in the period of the first cold war (1945-1955), this book challenges these widespread assumptions, looking in detail at the link between defence spending and economic decline. In contrast to earlier studies, Till Geiger not only analyses the British effort within the framework of Anglo-American relations, but also places it within the wider context of European integration. By reconsidering the previously accepted explanation of the economic impact of the British defence effort during the immediate post-war period, this book convincingly suggests that British foreign policy-makers retained a large defence budget to offset a sense of increased national vulnerability, brought about by a reduction in Britain's economic strength due to her war effort. Furthermore, it is shown that although this level of military spending may have slightly hampered post-war recovery, it was not in itself responsible for the decline of the British economy.

British Economic Growth During the Industrial Revolution

A concise textbook on the post-war British economy, placing economics in a political, social, and cultural framework.