

Capitalism in Historical Perspective

1700-1913



The Royal Exchange, London, by Thomas Bowles, 1781 (Wikimedia Commons)

Are you interested in...

1

LIVING STANDARDS

How capitalism affected people's cost of living in the past?

2

CONSUMERISM

How capitalism helped to shape a consumerist society?

3

EMPIRE & SLAVERY

How capitalism perpetuated colonialism and slavery?

Then this is the course for you!

In addition to the above, we will cover a variety of topics such as the history of...

- ✓ Family, Work and Business
- ✓ Poverty, Inequality, and Social Welfare
- ✓ Moral Economy
- ✓ Politics of Free Trade
- ✓ Role of the Financial Press
- ✓ Entrepreneurship
- ...and many more

Dr Aashish Velkar

Course Convenor,
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Economic History |
[Profile](#)

Teaching Hours

Combination of weekly
lectures (2 hours) and
seminars (1 hour) in
Semester 2

Assessments

Source Analysis (50%)
Exam (50%)

Want to know more?

Log-in for an informal
chat with Dr Gerardo
Serra (current Course
Convenor) on

**Monday, 12 June 2023
(10-11 am)**

<https://zoom.us/j/2049478456>

Meeting ID: 204 947
8456

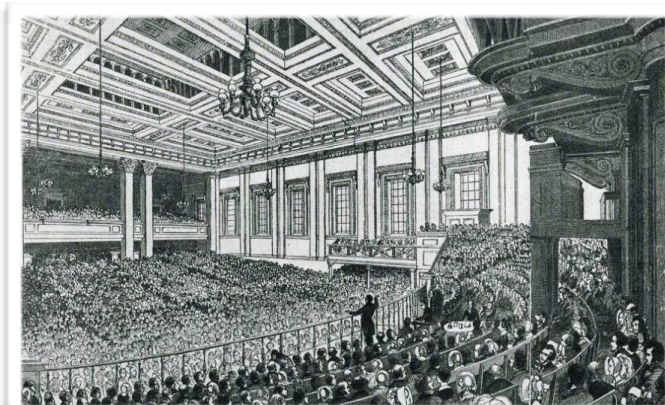
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*Note: This unit is co-coded
with HIST10182, which has a
different assessment
structure*

What you will learn...

Using the example of Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries, we will...

- ➔ Explore various different forms of capitalism that emerged, such as financial, merchant, industrial, agrarian, and gentlemanly capitalism.
- ➔ Survey key debates in this historiography such as:
 - ❖ Did capitalism make people better off?
 - ❖ Why did people start investing in stock markets making Britain a 'nation of shareholders'?
 - ❖ Did the state help or hinder the growth of capitalism?
 - ❖ Was there a moral economy of the poor?
- ➔ Examine the parallel transformations that led to the development of capitalism in Britain: the industrial revolution, changing economic thought, shifts in demographics and population, transformation of social life and relations, and rethinking of political and moral ideas
- ➔ Evaluate contemporary and scholarly criticisms of capitalist institutions



Meeting of Anti-Corn Law League, 1846 (Wikimedia Commons)

Skills you will develop

1. Develop awareness of how scholars have examined and understood the emergence of capitalism in the historical past.
2. Confront how ideas of social justice and inequality shaped past societies.
3. Be able to identify and articulate in a scholarly manner the major economic, social and political institutions that shaped a capitalist society.
4. Become confident in your ability to analyse the relationship between people and institutions in their social and economic contexts.

INDICATIVE READINGS

- ▶ Jürgen Kocka, *Capitalism: A Short History* (Princeton, NJ, 2016)
- ▶ Dauntton, Martin, *Progress and Poverty: An Economic and Social History of Britain*
- ▶ Dauntton, Martin, *Wealth and Welfare: An Economic and Social History of Britain*
- ▶ Floud, Roderick & Johnson, Paul (eds.), *The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Britain* (Cambridge, 2004).
- ▶ Neal, Larry and Williamson, Jeffrey (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Capitalism*



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