ECO 2210Y

Topic no. 30: The Changing Patterns of Mediterranean Commerce, 1300 - 1600: Italy, Catalonia/Aragon, France, the Ottoman Empire, and the Levant.

Italy and Mediterranean Commerce during the late-medieval ‘Great Depression’


   a) Bartolomei Yun, ‘Economic Cycles and Structural Changes,’ pp. 113-46.
   b) John H. Munro, ‘Patterns of Trade, Money, and Credit,’ pp. 147-96.


The Commercial Supremacy of Venice and the Iberian Challenge (Catalonia & Portugal)


The Decline of Venice: the English and Dutch Challenge, 1560 - 1640


   (c) Carlo M. Cipolla, ‘The Economic Decline of Italy,’ pp. 127 - 45.

17. Herman Van der Wee, ed., The Rise and Decline of Urban Industries in Italy and in the Low Countries: Late Middle Ages - Early Modern Times (Leuven, 1988).
   (a) P. M. Piergiovanni, ‘Social and Economic Consequences of Structural Changes in the Ligurian Silk-Weaving Industry from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century,’ pp. 17 - 40.
   (c) P. Malanima, ‘An Example of Industrial Reconversion: Tuscany in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries,’ p. 63 - 74.
   (d) A. Moioli, ‘De-Industrialization in Lombardy during the Seventeenth Century,’ pp. 75 - 120.

QUESTIONS:

1. What changes took place in Mediterranean and Italian commerce during the 14th and 15th centuries? What happened to the commercial fortunes of Venice, Genoa, and Florence during the so-called late-medieval Great Depression?

2. How did Venice gain supremacy in Mediterranean and especially Levantine commerce by the 15th century? How did Venice react to first Catalan and then Portuguese competition, especially in the Levantine spice trade. Explain the importance of the commerce in spices and cotton.
3. Why did Venice’s Golden Age not last beyond the 1570s? What impact did the following have upon Venetian commerce in the 16th and early 17th centuries: Portugal, the Ottoman Empire, England, the United Provinces (the Dutch Republic)?