Economic History
Fall semester
Undergraduate course
School of Economics, Shandong University

Instructor: Chicheng MA
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Class time and location: TBA
Office Hours: by appointment

This course introduces the comparative economic history of the world, especially the comparison between the West and China in the past one thousand years. After a concise description of the long-run economic development of the world over the past few millennia, the course will focus on the stylized historical facts and puzzles that have attracted economic historians as well as other social scientists to explain. These include the Voyages of Discovery, the Columbian Exchange, the Industrial Revolution and the rise of Europe, the Needham Puzzle (why China fell behind the West?), Protestantism and Confucianism, the diffusion of modernization, and the modern transitions of China after 1840.

The textbook is *A Concise Economic History of the World: From Paleolithic Times to the Present* (2002) by Rondo Cameron and Larry Neal, New York: Oxford University Press. In addition, the course also relies on considerable papers and other book chapters as shown in the following reading list.

The course will be graded on the basis of class participation (20%), three short review essays (30%), and a final exam (50%). Among which, a review essay refers to a 2-3 page summary of and comments on a paper I will assigned later.

**Topics and Readings**

1. **Overview of World Economic History**


2. **The Mythical Chinese Past**


3. Voyages of Discovery


4. Columbian Exchange


5. Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Europe


6. The Needham Puzzle: Why China Fell behind?


7. Protestantism vs. Confucianism


8. The Diffusion of Modernization


9. Economic Transition in Modern China, 1840-1949

