

Advanced Economic History

(Master APE & PPD)

(EHESS & Paris School of Economics)

Thomas Piketty

Academic year 2017-2018

Syllabus & Reading list

(check [on line](#) for updated version)

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(check on-line for updated versions)

- "[Advanced economic history](#)" is an optional second-year master course that is highly recommended for students wishing to specialize in economic history and related subjects. This is a collective course designed by the members of the [Centre d'histoire économique et sociale François-Simiand](#). The objective is to present a broad introduction to various research areas in economic history.
- "[Advanced Economic History](#)" is jointly taught by Facundo Alvaredo, Jérôme Bourdieu, Denis Cogneau, Lionel Kesztenbaum, Eric Monnet and Thomas Piketty. The present syllabus describes the material and reading list used for the two lectures given by T. Piketty. These two lectures focus upon the long-run evolution of property regimes and political systems, with emphasis on the transition from ternary societies to proprietary societies and the interaction between inequality and party systems in electoral democracies.

- Although this is not a formal prerequisite, I assume that students have already taken the "[Introduction to Economic History](#)" course and are familiar with the basic facts regarding the historical evolution of income and wealth, the changing composition of capital ownership, etc. Students who have not taken this course (or need to refresh their memory) are strongly encouraged to go through the [syllabus and slides](#) used in this course.

A quick roadmap of the lectures

- The course is organized in 12 lectures of 3 hours.
- To validate the course, students are required (1) to attend and actively participate to all lectures; (2) to take the exam.
- Lectures 1-8 (L.Kesztenbaum/E. Monnet/F. Alvaredo/D. Cogneau)
- [Lecture 9: Property Regimes and Political Systems in Historical Perspective: From Ternary Societies to Proprietary Societies](#)
(Wednesday November 29th 2017)
- [Lecture 10: Property Regimes and Political Systems in Historical Perspective: Party Systems & Inequality in Electoral Democracies](#)
(Wednesday December 6th 2017)
- Lecture 11-12 (J. Bourdieu)

- [Lecture 9: Property Regimes and Political Systems in Historical Perspective: From Ternary Societies to Proprietary Societies](#)

This sequence of two lectures analyzes the joint evolution of property regimes and political systems. The first lecture focuses on the transition from ternary societies (based upon functional economic-political-religious inequality) to proprietary societies (based upon a sharp demarcation between property rights and political rights) and their followers (including social-democratic, communist and post-communist societies).

- * R. Blaufarb, *The Great Demarcation: The French Revolution and the Invention of Modern Property*, OUP 2014, chap.1-2
- * M. Finley, *Ancient Slavery and Modern Ideology*, 1979, chap.1
- G. Dumézil, « Métiers et classes fonctionnelles chez divers peuples indo-européens », [Annales ESC 1958](#)
- F. Novokmet, T. Piketty, G. Zucman, [From Soviets to Oligarchs: Inequality and Property in Russia 1905-2016](#) , WP 2017

(* = compulsory reading) (more references in lecture slides)

- **Lecture 10: Property Regimes and Political Systems in Historical Perspective: Party Systems & Inequality in Electoral Democracies**

The second lecture studies the joint evolution of property and inequality regimes and party systems in electoral democracies. In particular, I stress the interaction between inequality dynamics and the structure of political cleavages (class-based vs identity-based).

- * A. Przeworski, J. Sprague, *Paper Stones – A History of Electoral Socialism*, Univ. of Chicago Press 1986, chap.1-3
- * A. Bonica, H. Rosenthal, « Why Hasn't Democracy Slowed Rising Inequality », [JEP 2013](#)
- S.M. Lipset, S. Rokkan, « Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments », in *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, Lipset-Rokkan eds., Free Press 1967
- K. Roberts, *Changing Course in Latin America – Party Systems in the Neoliberal Era*, Cambridge UP 2014, chap.1-2