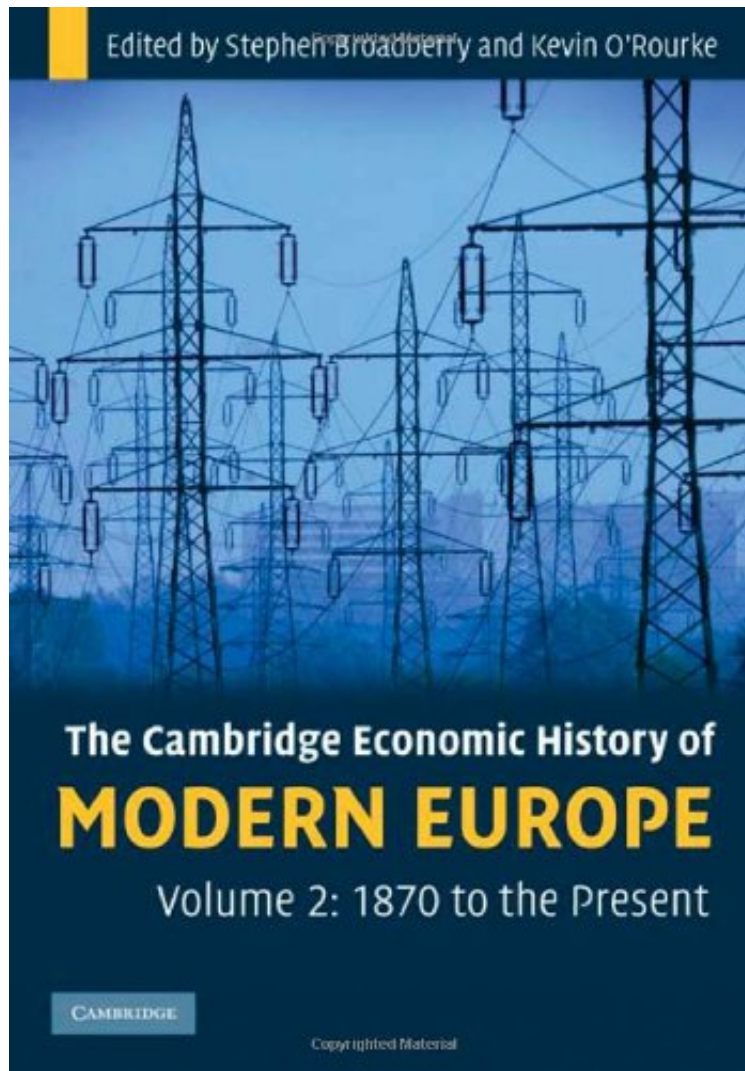


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## The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe: 2

*Broadberry/O'Rourke*

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very valuable By W. D ONEIL This is an example of the "Cambridge history" approach at its best. The 140 years between 1870 and 2010 is broken into three periods: those of globalization (1870-1913), the world wars and their aftermath (1914-1950), and post-war (1951- ). Within each period noted experts present a series of topical treatments, which are tied together well, with considerable cross-referencing. The positions taken are well supported and clearly presented, and extensively cross-referenced. The result is quite coherent and readable, but the articles are sufficiently self-contained to permit selective reference. A great deal of valuable data is

presented in tabular form. While there are certainly some topics in economic history for which a national or regional perspective serves well, this volume makes clear just how much there is to be gained analytically from a transnational comparative perspective. Every article is ripe in insights that would be unlikely to emerge from a narrower view. One certainly need not be a committed European to find a great deal of value here. This is of course no more than one would expect from these editors and authors. This book is very worth the money. Before receiving a print edition I tried the Kindle, which I found quite satisfactory for most purposes. The tables are a bit small, but readable nonetheless, and the cross-referencing features of the electronic medium are put to effective use.

Unlike most existing textbooks on the economic history of modern Europe, which offer a country-by-country approach, *The Cambridge Economic History of Modern Europe* rethinks Europe's economic history since 1700 as unified and pan-European, with the material organized by topic rather than by country. This second volume tracks Europe's economic history through three major phases since 1870. The first phase was an age of globalization and of European economic and political dominance that lasted until the First World War. The second, from 1914 to 1945, was one of war, deglobalization, and depression and the third was one of growing integration not only within Europe but also between Europe and the global economy. Leading authors offer comprehensive and accessible introductions to these patterns of globalization and deglobalization as well as to key themes in modern economic history such as economic growth, business cycles, sectoral developments, and population and living standards.

"This ambitious and timely book is something quite new: a multi-authored undergraduate economic history text that is resolutely pan-European in its approach. The promiscuous presence of so many nation-states in virtually every chapter is very exciting. The outcome—an explicitly comparative and interdisciplinary analysis (with lots of elementary and intermediate economics) by three dozen of the best practitioners in the field—is a resounding success." -Cormac O'Grada, Professor of Economics, University College Dublin

"Earlier economic histories of Europe were organized by country, which left the reader unable to see linkages between national economies or to appreciate how the several national economies differed or were similar. This very fine treatment is thus long overdue. The editors have organized a large, talented team of specialist scholars to create a coherent, up-to-date treatment. This work will quickly find a place in both teaching and research." -Timothy W. Guinnane, Philipp Golden Bartlett Professor of Economic History, Yale University

"The first unified economic history of Modern Europe provides a wide-angle perspective on an epic process of development that transcends national boundaries. Academics, students, policymakers and interested readers will turn to the essays by leading experts in the field for many years to come." -Alan M. Taylor, Professor of Economics, University of California, Davis

"I strongly recommend this book to readers. It is first a magnificent, unequalled introduction to European economic history. Furthermore it is a plea for the development of not only comparative but also quantitative economic history. It is finally a splendid synthesis exercise, which aims at presenting a cultured audience with the lessons drawn from advanced research in the field of historical economics and/or econometric history devoted to Europe from the eighteenth century to the present day, using clear and understandable terms." -EH.Net

"Fifteen papers provide a unified economic history of modern Europe from 1870 to the present." - *Journal of Economic Literature*

**About the Author**  
Stephen Broadberry is Professor of Economic History at the University of Warwick and a co-ordinator of the Economic History Initiative at the Centre for Economic and Policy Research. His recent publications include *The Economics of World War I* (2005, as co-editor) and *Market Services and the Productivity Race, 1850-2000: Britain in International Perspective* (2006).  
Kevin O'Rourke is Professor of Economics at Trinity College Dublin and a co-organiser of the Centre for Economic and Policy Research's Economic History Initiative. His recent publications include *The International Trading System, Globalization and History*, 2 volumes, (as editor, 2005) and *Power and Plenty: Trade, War, and the World Economy in the Second Millennium* (2007, with Ronald Findlay).