

RIVISTA DI
POLITICA ECONOMICA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline Extended

**FROM MALTHUS' STAGNATION TO SUSTAINED GROWTH:
SOCIAL, DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC FACTORS
WHICH HAVE DETERMINED THE MALTHUS TRAP AND THE TRANSITION**

Submission Due Date: **APRIL 15, 2010**

Guest Editors

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INTRODUCTION

The evolution of economies during the major portion of human history was marked by Malthusian stagnation. In the past two centuries, in contrast, the pace of technological progress increased significantly in association with the process of industrialization. The forces that generated and sustained Malthusian stagnation and those which have enabled its passing, bringing their significance in understanding the contemporary growth process of developed and less developed economies, have been the object of a recent strand of interesting research.

Some growth theories suggest that the transition from stagnation to growth is an inevitable outcome of the process of development. The inherent Malthusian interaction between the level of technology and the size and the composition of the population accelerated the pace of technological progress, and ultimately raised the importance of human capital in the production process. The passage of Europe from a civilization based on agriculture and the countryside to a civilization based on industry, services and cities has, however, been determined by a host of factors. Historians have stressed the process of urbanization, institutions, cultural factors, colonial status, demographic composition and dynamics, geographical factors etc. This complex and dynamic interaction of economic and social factors, led some regions of Europe to depart from the Malthusian economy and to initially experience a considerable rise in the growth rates of income per capita and population.

The determinants of the Malthusian sustained stagnation, the failure of technological progress in the pre-Industrial economy to generate sustained growth, the delayed role of human capital in the production process and the transition from a Malthusian trap to modern growth have been the subject of historical research and growth literature in recent years. Moreover, this research contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the obstacles faced by less developed economies in reaching a state

of sustained economic growth. For this reason we think that a further effort should be done by economists and historians to study these issues. Our purpose is to report an updated and original research in a special issue of *Rivista di Politica Economica* (<http://www.rivistapoliticaeconomica.it/>) which contents will also be proposed for publication in a book of the Palgrave-Macmillan series: *Central Issues in Contemporary Economic Theory and Policy*.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What accounts for the sustained phase of stagnation that characterized most of human history?
Which factors are the origin of the sudden spurt in growth rates of output per capita and population?
Why did some countries industrialize first? And why some countries overcame stagnation at radically different points in time?
Why had episodes of technological progress in the pre-industrialization era failed to generate sustained economic growth?
What triggered the demographic transition?
What are the determinants of early economic development and how did these interact?

Papers on related issues not explicitly listed above are also welcome. Quantitative evidence and theoretical frameworks are welcome.

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Electronic submissions in Word (.doc) and .pdf format should be addressed to the special issue **Editor Coordinator** (see contact details below) and to *Rivista di Politica Economica* (rpe@confindustria.it) within **APRIL 15th, 2010**. Contributions should be kept within 35 single-spaced pages including Figures, Graphs, Tables and Appendix (if any).

All papers will be externally reviewed according to the journal's standards.

TIME LINE

APRIL 15 th , 2010	Deadline for electronic submission of papers to the special issue.
AUGUST 31 st , 2010	Notification to authors regarding acceptance to the special issue, which may be conditional on completing the revisions indicated in the referees' report.
NOVEMBER 1 st , 2010	Delivery of the revised version to the Editors.

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