

1978-10-09: [METHODOLOGY] La Roy Ladurie, "Motionless History"

1300 (Philip Fair) to 1720 (Law's system) extent of the course to be taught.

123 "from an unhealthy monetary inflation to a healthy one."

During the whole period an extraordinary ecological equilibrium.

124 Also a "microbian unification of humanity" (Genoa brings plague from the east, giving infectious diseases to Amer. Indians via Columbus!)

126-7 Armies & war the agents of equilibrium by their predatory nature that inhibited "civil" development.

("Malthusian" checks also there—but armies spread the plague, ruined agricultural capital and caused famine, etc.)

132-3 Insists on demographic factors being more important than technological ones, in fits and starts of development.

133 "The economy proved quite subservient to the great forces of life and death (refers to himself as being slightly discordant (but part of) the very Parisian chorus of the critics of economic determinism.)

134 After 1720 the "élitist renovation" limited to a tiny element at the top touched off an avalanche. Medieval norms of agriculture, etc. broke down under new population pressures, different monetary situation, etc.