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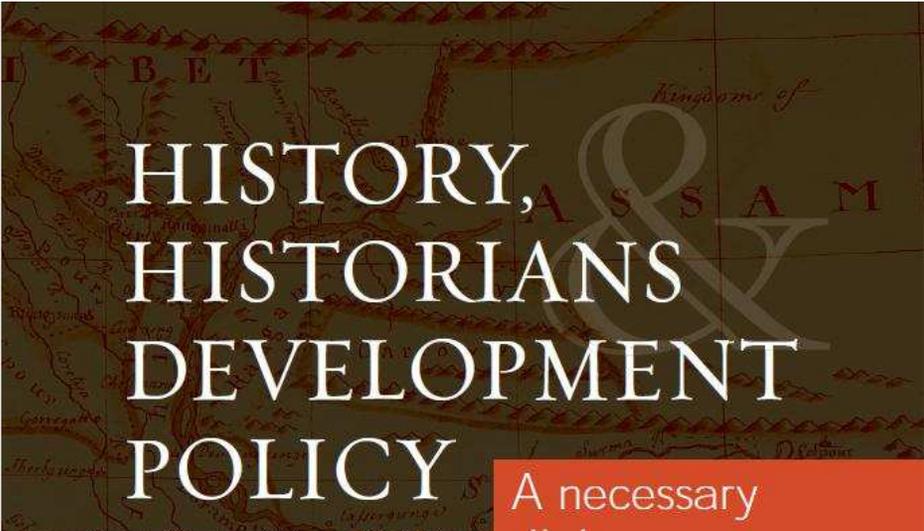
‘The archival history of Britain and its dialogue with development policy during the World Bank era, c.1945 to the present’

World Bank Conference on “Using History to Inform Development Policy: The Role of Archives,”

25-6 Oct 2012

Professor Simon Szreter

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HISTORY,
HISTORIANS
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POLICY

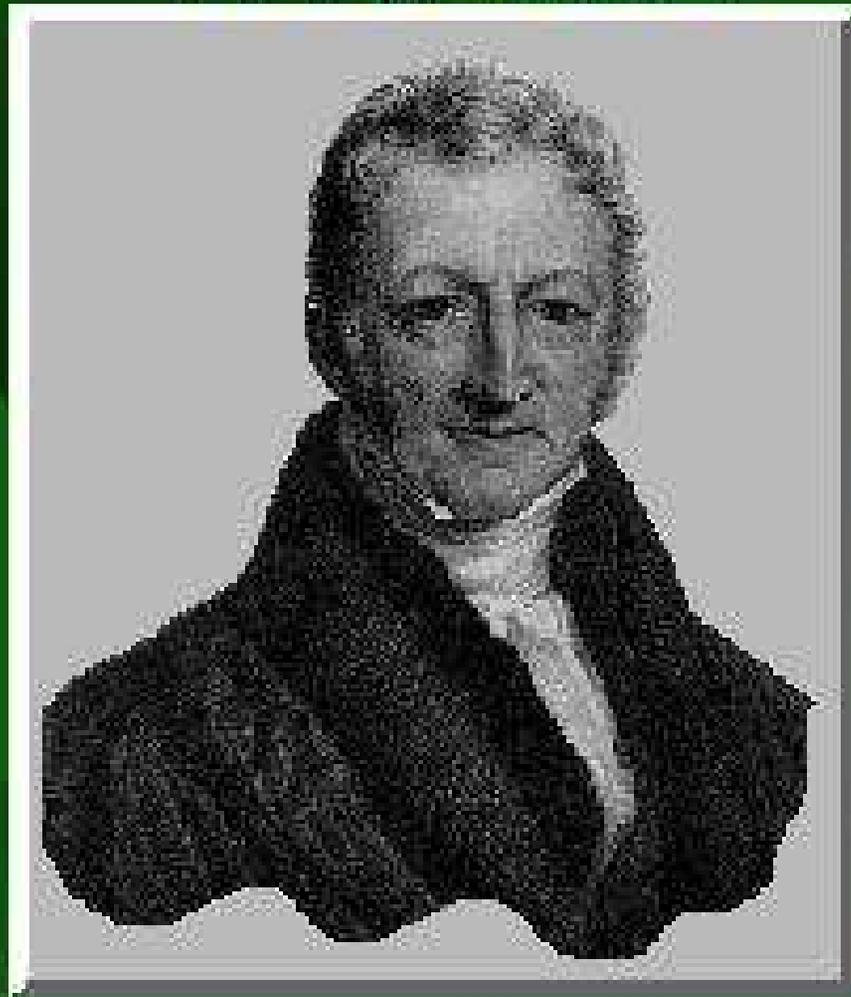
The background of the top half of the cover is a historical map of Assam and surrounding regions. The map is rendered in a sepia or brownish tone. It shows the geographical layout of the region, including rivers, mountain ranges, and various kingdoms or territories. The word 'ASSAM' is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters across the top of the map. Other visible labels include 'TIBET' at the top left, 'Kingdom of' in cursive at the top right, 'BAHAR' on the left side, 'ORIXA' at the bottom left, and 'ARAC' at the bottom right. The map also features various smaller place names and geographical features.

A necessary
dialogue

C.A. Bayly, Vijayendra Rao, Simon Szreter,
Michael Woolcock (eds)

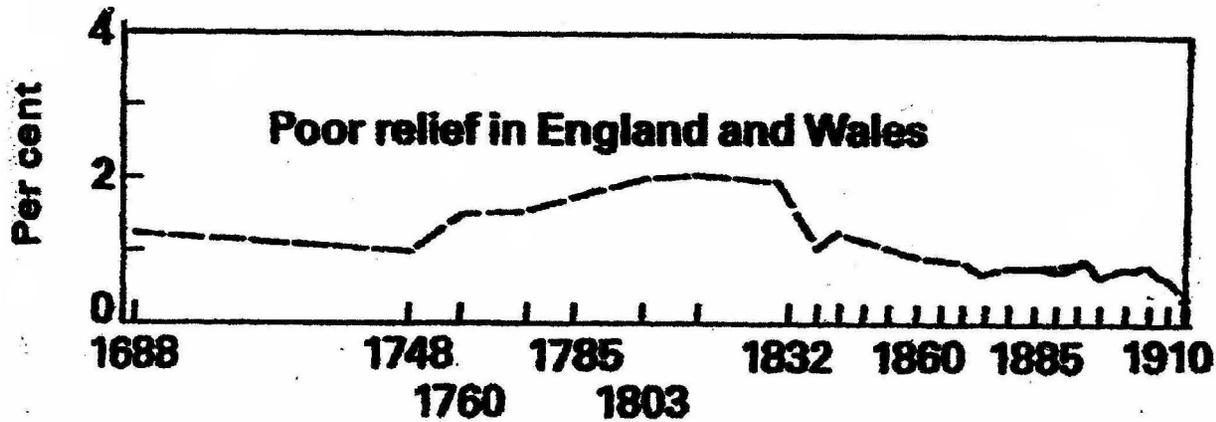
Thomas Malthus

1776-1834



The Settlement Laws and Labour Mobility?

- Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776):
- ‘The obstruction which corporation laws give to the free circulation of labour is common, I believe to every part of Europe. That which is given to it by the poor laws is, so far as I know, peculiar to England. ...The difficulty of obtaining settlements obstructs even [the mobility of] common labour.’ (Book I, ch.X).



Source: P.H.Lindert, 'Un Equal Living Standards', in R.Floud & D. McCloskey (eds) *The Economic History of Britain 1700-1860* (Cambridge 1994).

Figure 14.5 Poor relief and pension spending as a share of national product, England/Wales and the UK, 1688-1910

Historical Scholarship and the chronology of the Industrial Revolution in Britain

- The 1950s-70s orthodoxy: Capital Investment and explosive growth 1780-1830: steam engine and factory
- Phyllis Deane and W. Cole, *British Economic Growth 1688-1959* (1962)
- W.W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth* (1960; 3rd edition 1990)

Revisionist Historiography: 'slow growth': gradual, long-term

- E.A. Wrigley and R.S. Schofield: *The Population History of England, 1541-1871: A Reconstruction* (1981)
- C.K. Harley, 'British Industrialisation before 1841: evidence of slower growth during the industrial revolution' *Journal Of Economic History* 1982
- N. Crafts, *British economic growth during the industrial revolution* (1985)

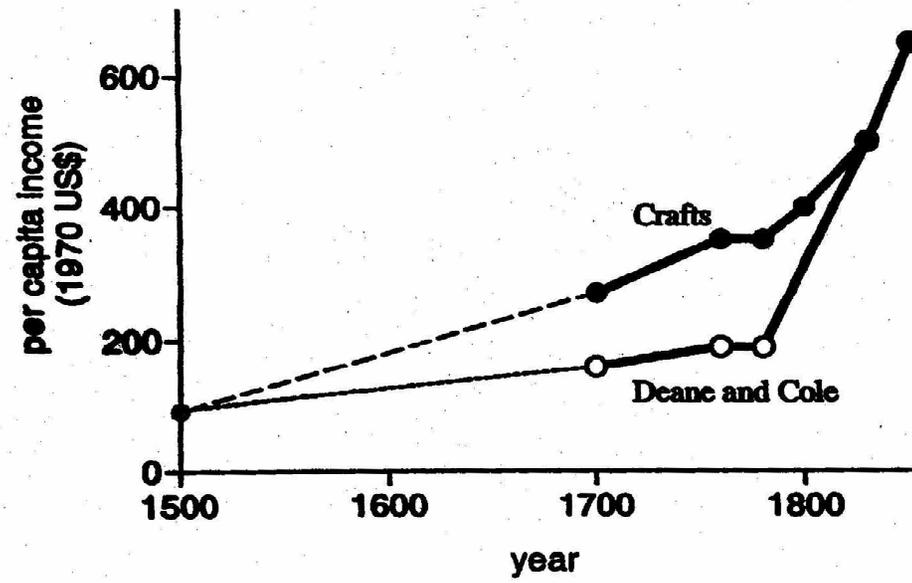
Institutions and markets

Douglass North (1993 Nobel Prize in Economics):

Structure & Change in Economic History (1981)

- Three interlocking institutions emerged in Holland and England between C12th and C17th:
- **Formal law:** Individual private property rights (to buy or sell land without kin/community restraint)
- **Social norms:** a rationalising belief system acknowledging the morality of commodity relations (interest on capital, wage labour)
- **State enforcement** of laws and norms with credible and universal sanctions- 'the rule of law'

English per capita income



Chronology of Poor Laws and Identity Registration Statutes

- 1536 Thomas Cromwell (Henry VIII's) Poor Law
- 1538 Thomas Cromwell's Parish Registers

- 1598 Elizabeth I's first major Poor Law Statute
- 1598 Re-organisation of parish registers:
durable Diocesan parchment copies

- 1834 'New Poor Law' enacted
- 1836 Marriage and Registration Acts (civil reg'n)

- Scotland (in UK since 1707) : PL 1845; Reg'n 1854
- Ireland (in UK since 1801): PL 1838; Reg'n 1864

The Elizabethan or 'Old' Poor Law: statutes 'For the Relief of the Poor' 1598 and 1601

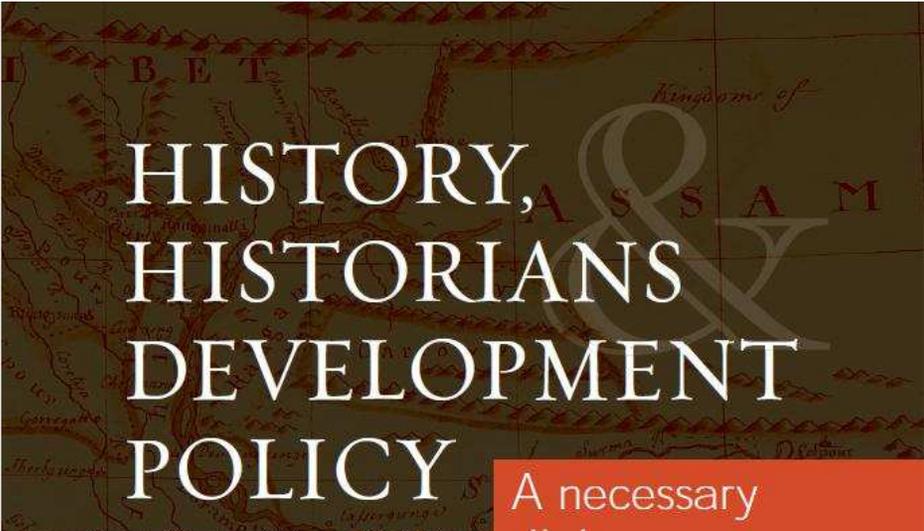
- a universal legal right to relief for every subject (Lorie Charlesworth, *Welfare's Forgotten Past*)
- every one of England's approximately 10,000 or more parishes mandated to create a parish fund
- financed by a local tax *pro rata* to property value
- to support the local poor all year round if necessary, not just in times of dearth
- orphans, widows, the old and disabled and the unemployed all covered in principle.

Evidence for Poor Law effectiveness for Population Health

- Cambridge Group for the History of Population 4% sample (404 parishes) found no evidence of national or regional famine crisis mortality after 1623/4, over 150 years before any other countries of Western Europe were free from famines

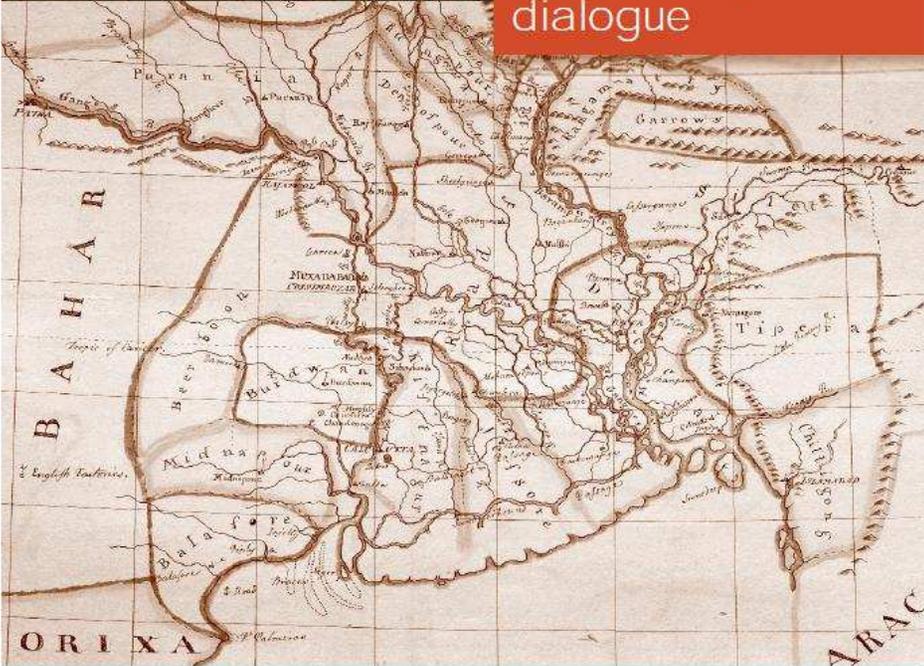
The 1538 system of parish registers

- ‘...for the avoiding of sundry strifes and processes and contentions arising from age, lineal descent, title of inheritance, legitimation of bastardy, and for knowledge, whether any person is our subject or no.’
- Thomas Cromwell, 1485-1540, First Earl of Essex, Henry VIII’s Vicar-General and chief minister 1532-40).

A historical map of Assam and surrounding regions, including parts of Tibet, Bihar, Orissa, and Arac. The map is rendered in a sepia tone with a grid overlay. The title 'HISTORY, HISTORIANS & DEVELOPMENT POLICY' is superimposed in white serif font. A large, faint ampersand is visible behind the title. The word 'ASSAM' is written in large letters across the top of the map area.

HISTORY, HISTORIANS & DEVELOPMENT POLICY

A necessary
dialogue

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