

China's 'Great Divergence'

Max Weber and the Missing Link

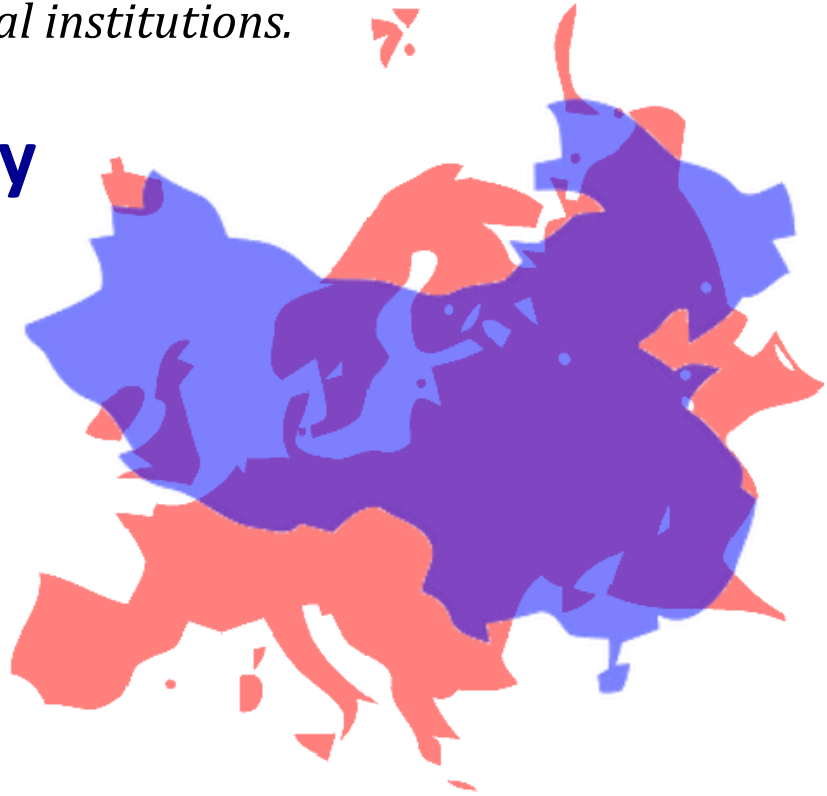
Geoffrey Ingham, Cambridge

The question of China's economic stagnation at the time of the West's industrialisation was re-opened by revisionist economic historians' concept of the 'Great Divergence' and accusations of 'eurocentrism'. These challenged the established view that the Western economic development was the result of institutional and cultural factors, as advanced by a conventional interpretation of Max Weber's contrast between rational western capitalism and oriental traditionalism. However, the balkanisation of the social and historical sciences has created theoretical blind spots on both sides in the dispute. Consequently, both have overlooked a crucial factor which, in fact, forms an important but neglected part of Weber's explanation – the divergent monetary and financial institutions.

Wednesday 7th May

5:15pm

Lecture Theatre
H.0.51



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