

Growth after war: some lessons from history

Kevin Hjortshøj O'Rourke

NYU Abu Dhabi

Simon Kuznets and economic history

- One of the fathers of quantitative economic history
- Economic growth across countries
 - A huge stream of literature has followed him, quantifying growth and its determinants, seeking out correlations across countries that can tell us about the sources of growth
- Important role mentoring students and other young scholars, formally and informally

War and economic growth

- Wars often ignored by economic historians
 - Napoleonic wars
 - World War I and II
- The impact of economics on the outcome of wars
 - Resources and wars
- The impact of wars on economies?

World War 1

- War and post-war politics
 - Expansion of the franchise, growth of unions
 - Implications for monetary policy
- New borders and protectionism
- Reparations
 - Makes international cooperation difficult
 - Capital flows and sudden stops

World War 2

- Reconstruction
- Marshall Aid
 - Conditionality, European integration, and growth
- Golden Age of European growth
 - Domestic institutions promoting savings and growth
 - International institutions promoting economic integration and peace

Implications for today