

Can Demographic Transition only be Explained by Neo-Malthusian Models?

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Previous researches on demographic transition are based on neo-Malthusian models which assume a positive relationship between income and fertility rates. This paper presents a non-Malthusian view, that is, wages and fertility rates are negatively correlated. This interpretation better fits the data and socio-economic context of the early nineteenth century, a period where fertility rates went up. This paper stresses that the evolution of capital, wages and child labor may provide an alternate explanation for the observed pattern of fertility rates during the early European industrialization.

JEL classification: J13; O11; O16; O40.

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