

Research Guide

Final Paper Econ 508

For your final paper, you should choose a country of focus and a topic relating to its transition. Comparisons between different countries' transitions are encouraged, but not required. Keep in mind that some countries/topics will be more difficult to find information on than others.

Please come to your meeting with the T.A. tentatively prepared with an interest in one or more of the countries and topics suggested. You will finalize the direction of your research during the meeting. Two students are strongly discouraged from focusing on exactly the same countries and topics.

Suggested Countries

- Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)
- Bolivia
- China
- Czech Republic
- Germany (unification of East and West)
- India
- Poland
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Yugoslavia (disintegration)

Suggested Topics

- Corruption
- Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)
- International trade
- Land reforms
- Macroeconomic policy (especially inflation and its effects)
- Monopolistic behavior
- Poverty
- Privatization: methods and results
- Shock therapy vs. gradualism
- Social sector reforms

Guidelines

- In the written portion, grammar and organization will count for as much as the substance of your arguments.
- During the presentation, your poise and visual appearance will count for as much as the material presented.
- The bulk of the data used in the arguments should be *original* (i.e. generated by *you* via the World Bank, IMF or other website); a lecture on how to obtain and develop such data will be presented in class (see syllabus).
- You should use appropriate computer software, 1.5 line spacing, 12-point type, preferably Arial or Times New Roman, and approximately 2500 words (i.e. 10 pages), excluding references. The paper should be divided into at least 3 sections: Introduction, Main Body, Conclusions, followed by a Reference Section. Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of each page and numbered successively.
- You are encouraged to develop your presentation in PowerPoint format and use the computer projection facilities in the classroom for your presentation.

References and Citations

- A separate section of REFERENCES must be included at the end of your paper. The Reference Section should include *only* references that you cite in the paper. Remember *all* material from others' work that has been quoted, paraphrased, or used in any way *must* be cited.
- If you copy all or part of a sentence from someone else's work, either published or unpublished, use "quotation marks," followed by citation to the reference. For example, "China is a very large country," (Fleisher, 2005, p. x). If you summarize even a small part of someone else's work, OR, if you wish to use someone as an authority for an assertion, use the same citation style as above, but no quotation marks are necessary. For example: The population of China at the beginning of 2005 was over 1.2 billion people (Fleisher, 2005, p. x). If the material is not a direct quotation, you do not have to use the page number of material you are citing if the material being referenced occurs on more than one page of the cited reference. *If you have any doubts about whether to use quotation marks or not, play it safe. Use the quotation marks.*

Suggested Sources

Note that the references provided are only suggested readings. The students are welcome and encouraged to use other sources.

- **World Development Indicators (WDI).** This is an invaluable source of macroeconomic data. All country reports should start out with the basic statistics, such as GDP growth, per-capital GDP growth, unemployment, inflation. To access from any university computer: go to OSCAR and search for the title, World Development Indicators. Choose the online version. From your own personal computer: go to <http://www.library.osu.edu/> and login with your student id.
- **IMF Country Reports and Publications,** online at: <http://www.imf.org/external/country/index.htm>
- **IMF, *Transition Economies: An IMF Perspective on Progress and Prospects*,** <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2000/110300.htm>
- **IMF, *World Economic Outlook*, October 2000, Chapter 3, *Transition: Experience and Policy Issues*,** pages 91 – 93. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2000/02/pdf/chapter3.pdf>
- **Kutan, Ali and Joseph Brada, *The Evolution of Monetary Policy in Transition Economies*,** 2000, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Review, <http://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/review/00/03/0003ak.pdf> (shorter version) http://www.zei.de/download/zei_wp/B99-19.pdf (longer version)
- **Naughton, Barry, *Growing Out of the Plan*.** Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press, 1995. (On reserve in Business Library)
- **OECD website on Transition Economies** (has info both by topic and by country) http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,2686,en_2649_37445_1_1_1_1_37445,00.html
- **World Bank, *Transition - The First Ten Years: Analysis and Lessons for Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union*,** full report is available online at: <http://Inweb18.worldbank.org/eca/eca.nsf/General/D902E8CAF401B76E85256B410081DF03?OpenDocument>
- **World Bank's Transition Website** <http://www.worldbank.org/transitionnewsletter/>